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A-G: We can't stop El Al on Shabbat

By DAVID HARRIS and HAIM SHAPIRO

Once El Al is privatized there is nothing the government can do to prevent the airline from flying on Shabbat. Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein told the government panel charged with planning the company's privatization, according to one of the panel's members.

Rubinstein's opinion was requested ahead of yesterday's publication of the plan for the national carrier's 100 percent sale on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange next year.

More than four months after the report should have been published, its government-appointed authors said yesterday that the Shabbat issue would be for the shareholders to consider.

See EL AL, Page 2

WJRO warns European states over Jewish assets

By DAVID HARRIS

The World Jewish Restitution Organization will work against the inclusion of Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic in NATO unless they cooperate over the restitution of Jewish communal property.

This was one of two decisions made by the WJRO council at its meeting in Jerusalem last night. The second was the establishment of a committee that will report within a month on how to distribute the Swiss humanitarian fund. The committee will comprise representatives of the World Jewish Congress, Jewish Agency and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

The committee has been instructed to make aid to Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe its top priority.

The key evening session of the WJRO council was described by Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg as "the same old recycled stuff. It's just the same old people having the same old discussions."

There are some 60,000 Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe, according to Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel secretary-general Noach Flug. But he acknowledged there are others who believe the figure is far higher.

"All the money must go to the neediest survivors, with a certain preference to those in the former eastern bloc," said Flug.

However, WJC chairman in Israel Mati Drobilas said Israel must be the focal point for financial distributions worldwide. These payments would be to establish old-age homes in the former Soviet Union and construction of community centers throughout the world.

WJRO vice-chairman Naphtali Lavie hopes his group will distribute the monies in Europe. Meanwhile, the National Insurance Institute is completing a report on how it could be the distributor.

Work is being carried out to establish the criteria for survivors to qualify for payments. Legislation would also be required to ensure the payments would not be taxed, according to Lavie.

Mordechai: PA involved in murders



Relatives and friends pray over the body of Palestinian waiter Mahmoud Ali Jamhour during his funeral in the Beit Anan village mosque yesterday. Jamhour, 34, was the third person slain recently who was suspected by Palestinians of selling land to Jews. (Reuters)

By LIAT COLLINS, ELI WOHLGELERTER, MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, and agencies

Israel must take intensive action to stop the murder of Arab land dealers accused of selling land to Jews, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday, both at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and afterwards to parliamentary reporters.

He said, however, that the diplomatic process with the Palestinians could not be stopped without causing unrest.

"At this stage we don't know what level of the Palestinian establishment was responsible for giving the order to murder the land dealers. But it is clear that the Palestinian establishment is involved," Mordechai said. "I think intensive action should be taken to prevent the unbearable phenomenon of the murder of innocent people by members of the Palestinian establishment."

"However, we must find ways of continuing the diplomatic process between the Palestinians and us and make a comprehensive effort within the process to stop the Palestinians carrying out this type of provocation," he said.

Mordechai told the committee that at a meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu earlier in the morning, it was decided to "operate all channels" to thwart the murders "and stop the terrible phenomenon, by means of both information and operational activities."

According to an official briefing, he also said attempts would be made to get the international community to condemn the murders.

Relating to events in the territories, Mordechai said: "We know of armed terror cells in the areas under Palestinian Authority control. We're talking about organizations like Islamic Jihad, Hamas, and the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine]."

He said the Palestinian Authority took "occasional" and ineffective action against these terror cells and the IDF also acted against them.

"I cannot be sure that if a terror cell wants to carry out an attack that we would definitely be able to prevent it," said Mordechai.

He said that although the IDF is taking action, the lack of diplomatic contacts could cause violence to flare up. The murder of the land dealers was later discussed in the Knesset plenum.

PA general secretary Ahmed Abdel-Rahman said yesterday the PA's ban on land sales to Jews has dealt a severe blow to Israel's settlement drive in the West Bank. But Abdel-Rahman denied the PLO was behind the killing of Arab land dealers.

"The political and information campaign waged by the Israeli government against the Palestinian Authority... reflects the depth of the blow that has struck Israel's settlement drive on Palestinian land," Abdel-Rahman said in a statement.

Meanwhile, sources involved in purchasing land in eastern Jerusalem said the killing of three Arabs suspected of selling land to Jews may slow down land-buying operations, but the purchases will continue.

"Of course, all the time - this process continued even during the intifada, under the threat of Hamas and Islamic Jihad," said one source, who declined to be identified, because "if you give too many details it can be dangerous to some of the people we are dealing with."

He said the only effect of last month's murders is that "it slows down the deals, and the prices go higher. What's interesting is that whether [under] the Likud government or... Labor, the process has always continued. It may be more expensive, and take more time, but they continue selling land."

The source said no one has pulled out of any pending deal, but that in the past, deals were frozen for a few months, "depending on the political climate, until things calmed down."

In some cases, the seller asks for help in setting up a new life elsewhere.

See MORDECHAI, Page 2

Barak considered primary shoo-in

By SARAH HONIG

Supporters of MK Ehud Barak yesterday feared that the lackluster campaign for the Labor Party chairmanship would result in a low voter turnout in today's primary, something that could reduce Barak's margin of victory, though he is heavily favored to win.

The polls are due to open at 10:00 a.m. in 662 stations nationwide. Some 166,000 registered party members aged 16 and over have the vote. Exit polls should indicate the trend as soon as the ballot counting begins, after the polls close at 10 tonight.

Yesterday's only excitement came in the morning when Barak's three rivals - MKs Yossi Beilin, Ephraim Sneh and Shlomo Ben-Ami - all called on the voters to punish Barak for repeatedly refusing to appear with them.

This, they argued, revealed an elitist and belittling attitude on Barak's part.

All this came to a head early yesterday on Channel 2's morning news magazine to which all four Labor hopefuls were invited.

Three turned up, but Barak was represented with a cardboard cut-out to underscore his



refusal to go on the air with the other candidates.

Netanyahu bids Peres farewell, Page 2
Labor race a snoozer, Page 3

Throughout the campaign, he had steadfastly refused to appear at any event with the other candidates, in what was said to be a bid to prevent giving the impression that the three were serious alternatives to himself. The sole exception was a short TV debate several weeks ago at midday on a Saturday, one of the lowest TV viewing

hours. Ben-Ami yesterday accused Barak of "putting on patronizing, elitist airs. He wants it known that we are not good enough. He doesn't deign to be seen with us. It's high time the voters put him in his place and punish his arrogance."

Barak's lieutenant, MK Uzi Baram, replied tersely that "Barak had better things to do at that time and does not have to be at every reporter's beck and call."

The primary organizers said they would be pleased if the turnout exceeds 50 percent. This would be far below the over 70% turnout in the days when Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin feuded bitterly and generated a high degree of involvement.

There was no drama in this race. Laborites say, largely because Barak's most uncompromising foe, MK Haim Ramon, chose to stay out of the fray. That most believe that Barak is a shoo-in also reduced interest in the campaign.

Polls yesterday continued to show a wide lead for Barak, though many in his camp feared that predictions of his certain victory might keep many of his supporters from bothering to vote.

Potentially, this could trim his margin of victory, though most in the party believe he will still win.

Beilin, who is expected to come in second, says he believes he can force a second round on Barak. For that to happen Barak will have to get less than 40% of the vote.

While the party was girding itself for primary day, outgoing party chairman Shimon Peres quietly moved out of his office at party headquarters on Tel Aviv's Hayarkon Street. Movers came and packed his books, mementos and personal effects, and took them to a plush north Tel Aviv office in the Amot Hamishpat building.

The party spokesman refused to allow photographers to record the move.

McVeigh guilty of Oklahoma bombing

DENVER (AP) - Timothy McVeigh was convicted yesterday of blowing up the Oklahoma City federal building in a murderous attack against his own government, in the deadliest act of terrorism ever on US soil.

The 29-year-old decorated Gulf War veteran could get the death penalty for the April 19, 1995 blast that killed 168 people and injured hundreds more. The federal jury that took 23 1/2 hours over four days to convict McVeigh of all 11 counts of murder and conspiracy will return tomorrow to decide if he should pay with his life.

McVeigh showed no reaction, wearing the same impassive expression he had when he was arrested. Hands clasped tightly and pressed against one cheek, elbows on the table, McVeigh remained seated as the verdict was read and stared at the judge. No one comforted him or said anything to him during the ver-

dict reading. As the jury was polled, the foreman stared at McVeigh the whole time and answered in a loud firm voice, "Yes." Two jurors had very red eyes and were holding tissues in their hands and appeared close to tears.

Cheers erupted outside the courthouse and at the bombing site, where about 500 people gathered to hear the verdict.

Victims' relatives hugged and wept. In Washington, President Bill Clinton said the verdict heralded "a very important and long overdue day for the survivors and families of those who died in Oklahoma City."

"Today, I say to the families of the victims, no single verdict can bring an end to your anguish," Clinton said in a written statement. "But your courage has been an inspiration to all Americans. Our prayers are with you."

Hechal Shlomo to become theme park

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Jerusalem's Hechal Shlomo, formerly the seat of the Chief Rabbinate, is to become a Jewish theme park on the pattern of Walt Disney World, the building's director said this week.

Yeshayahu Barzel said that if all goes well, the building should be transformed into its new role, conveying the "Jewish experience," within 18 months, in time for the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel. He said it would be similar to the attractions found at Epcot in Orlando, Florida.

This week Chief Rabbis Yisrael Lau and Eliahu Bakshi-Doron moved to their new quarters in the Yahav Building, near the entrance to Hechal Shlomo, built by Sir Isaac Wolfson to house the Chief Rabbinate, but operated by an independent authority.

Among the complaints was that

the offices of the Sephardi chief rabbi were smaller and less grand than those of his Ashkenazi counterpart. The chief rabbis also sometimes found themselves sharing the building's only working elevator with school groups visiting the Wolfson Judaica Museum on the floor above their offices. The Chief Rabbinate also had to pay what it considered to be an excessive rent.

Barzel said that there are already architect's plans for the "Jewish experience" layout, which will cost an estimated \$18 million. He expressed the hope that most of the funds would come from the private sector, but said that to attract this, it would be necessary for the government to provide seed money.

Meanwhile, he said, a number of bodies in the tourism sector have expressed an interest in using the building or a part of it on a short-term basis. Barzel would not identify them.

PM: Israel cannot ignore killing of Arab residents

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The three gangland-style murders of suspected Palestinian land dealers that occurred during the past month topped Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's political agenda yesterday.

As the police and General Security Service were authorized to protect the lives of all real-estate agents whose lives may be threatened, the government launched an international campaign to condemn the slayings as grave violations of human rights.

"Israel cannot ignore the killing of Arab residents of Jerusalem, just as it cannot look away from an explosion in a Tel Aviv cafe," Netanyahu told Army Radio.

He implied that the Palestinian Authority bore direct responsibility for these acts when he said: "This government does not intend to conclude a fictional peace characterized by ceremonies in which there are handshakes, after which the terrorism and violence resume."

Among the countermeasures discussed at a meeting among Netanyahu, Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, senior police officers, and GSS representatives were protective devices to be issued to Arab and Jewish realtors, as well as surveillance by police and GSS personnel.

Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz spoke of emergency alarm systems to be installed in the homes and vehicles of endangered persons, as well as providing them with concussion grenades and flares.

"The ubiquitous presence of Palestinian police clad in civilian clothes" throughout Jerusalem's

Arab sector was assailed by Netanyahu's director of communications, David Bar-Ilan.

"This issue came up at the ministerial meeting on Jerusalem," Bar-Ilan said.

PA spokesmen denied involvement in the three slayings. However, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat was accused of laying the political and ideological groundwork for the bloodshed. PA Justice Minister Frieih Abu Medein suggested at a Gaza symposium on suicide that these land agents "should kill themselves."

The Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem not only discussed the murders with Mayor Ehud Olmert, but also what it regarded as unauthorized PA interference in the curriculum used in Jerusalem's Arab schools. This was termed a violation of the Oslo Accords.

The committee also decided to deploy another 400 policemen in Jerusalem and build another police station in the eastern part of the capital.

Liat Collins adds: According to Israel Radio's English News, a report recently presented to the prime minister states that none of the four Palestinian Authority institutions that were meant to have been closed down in Jerusalem has in fact stopped operating. At a recent cabinet meeting, it was announced that the four had closed or moved outside the capital.

The latest report states: "One of the four Palestinian Authority institutions in question, the Jerusalem Committee for Social Welfare, is obviously continuing to operate quite openly. The other three appear to be taking a lower profile, but indications are that they continue to operate as well."



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NEWS

in brief

Bus-bomb mastermind pleads guilty

Hassan Salameh, considered the Hamas mastermind behind three suicide bombings, pleaded guilty yesterday at the Erez Military Court to 19 counts of attacking collaborators and planning attacks. The court recessed until next Monday and in an unusual move said it would help get a permit for Salameh's mother to come from Khan Yunis to attend the trial. Salameh, 26, is also being tried in a military court in Judea and Samaria after pleading guilty to two suicide bombings last year on No. 18 buses in Jerusalem and a suicide bombing at an Ashkelon soldiers' hitchhiking post. Forty-six people were killed in those attacks. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Palestinians scuffle with soldiers near Morag

Palestinian demonstrators scuffled with IDF troops yesterday morning outside the settlement of Morag in Gush Katif. Palestinians said that several demonstrators were injured, including a cameraman from Reuters. However, the Southern Command spokesman said Palestinians started demonstrating after settlers from Morag began erecting a fence in an area under full Israeli control. The spokesman added that IDF officers and liaison officers met with their Palestinian counterparts and set a date to discuss the issue. Settlers said the IDF was replacing old fencing with electronic fencing, adding that contrary to Palestinian claims, there are no plans to expand Morag. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Two workers killed on the job

A worker was fatally injured yesterday when he fell from the fifth floor of a building under construction in Petah Tikva. He was brought in critical condition to Beilinson Hospital and died there of his injuries. In Hadera, another worker was killed while he was working on laying a water pipe in the Nahlieli neighborhood, and a sand wall collapsed and buried him alive. He was declared dead at the scene. *Itim*

Mordechai praises pre-army volunteers

The IDF has more than doubled the number of permits for teens who want to defer their army service to volunteer for a year of community service, and will give 1,200 such permits next year. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai met yesterday with some of the 500 youth who are winding up a year of such volunteer service. They help organize youth in development towns and moshavim, work in hospitals and community centers and help immigrants. "There is nothing more important than the work you are doing today," Mordechai said. "In contrast to youth who are empty and rejecting and searching, there is a youth who know what they want, who know how they can influence." *Arieh O'Sullivan*

General Staff of '97 hosts '67 counterparts

A ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the Six Day War was held last night at the IDF Staff and Command College in Tel Aviv in the presence of President Ezer Weizman. Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak awarded medallions marking the occasion to members of the 1967 General Staff, including Weizman (then OC Intelligence), Uzi Narkis (OC Central Command), Yishayahu Gavish (OC Southern Command), Mordechai Hod (OC Air Force), Yisrael Tal (OC Armored Corps), and Shlomo Erel (OC Navy). Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also attended, as did Leah Rabin, whose late husband Yitzhak was chief of staff during the Six Day War. *Itim*

Local authority heads block road to capital

Local authority heads halted traffic on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Highway for half an hour yesterday, as part of their protest campaign to press the government to solve their debt problem. They drove slowly down the highway in a convoy, finally halting near Latrun. A large traffic jam ensued and police arrived on the scene and tried to force the cars off the road, but the authority heads stayed in their locked cars and prevented police from taking action. Or Yehuda Mayor Tamir Shabi was held for questioning but later released. *Itim*

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved aunt

MARGOT COHN 71

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, June 3, 1997, at 10:30 a.m., at the Hof Hacameret cemetery, Haifa

The family

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

DANIEL NACHMAN ZIFF

on Sunday June 1, 1997 (26 Iyar)

The funeral was held on Monday, June 2, 1997.

Mother: Helen Geffen Ziff

Wife: Rachel Ziff

Daughters: Rachel and Gabi Gurevich

Batsheva Ziff

Shrit and Nir Altman

Neama Ziff

Brother: Joel and Liz Ziff-Rosenzweig and family

Sister: Ruth and Steve Adler and family

Grandchildren: Hilla, Roi and Yanatan

Shiva at Ziff residence, 7 Ahad Ha'am, Jerusalem.

EDITH HECHT 71

widow of the late Dr. Reuben Hecht

is no more

The funeral will take place today,

Tuesday, June 3, 1997 (27 Iyar 5757) at 11 a.m.

at the Neve David Cemetery, Oren Gate, Etzel and Lehi plot

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Report: Jihad planning attacks

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Pentagon officials believe the Islamic Jihad, at the instigation of Iran, is planning to conduct a wave of terrorist attacks in Israel, according to yesterday's *Washington Times*.

The paper's sources stated that about a dozen Islamic Jihad terrorists began infiltrating Israel early last month in preparation for the attacks, which they say were ordered by the group's secretary-general, Ramadan Abdullah

Shallah. Iran reportedly promoted the plan, because it wants to see a resumption of attacks against Israel.

The paper quoted an unnamed former CIA official who stated the Jihad terrorists' target is not Israelis, but Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Meanwhile, a senior US official said Washington will not denounce the apparent linkage of PA security forces with the recent murders of three suspected Palestinian land dealers until the Israeli and PA investigations are completed.

"We have made it clear that we condemn any extra-judicial actions, including actions taken against land sellers," State Department spokesman John Dinger said. "The government of Israel and the PA have made clear they are investigating the issue. That is all I will say on it. I can simply tell you the PA has stated publicly they've had no connection to the killings, including the killing last Friday." "We have condemned every extra-judicial killing. We have

been in touch with the Israelis regarding (one), the issue in general, and more specifically, the issue of whether the PA is directly involved in this issue. But I don't have any details for you on those sorts of communications," Dinger told reporters.

An embassy official in Washington, however, said Israel has not raised the matter here with the administration. Dinger also said the US has told the PA "the death penalty is inappropriate punishment for the sale of land,

under any circumstances." US officials left yesterday for Israel for this week's semi-annual meetings of the joint political-military group (JPMG). The American delegation is led by Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Thomas McNamara.

Arieh O'Sullivan adds: Military sources and Defense Ministry officials declined to comment on the *Washington Times* report.

Jordanian soldiers recount shootings

MARJ AL-HAMAM, Jordan (Reuters) - Army comrades of the Jordanian soldier charged with premeditated murder of seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls at Naharayim told a military court yesterday they saw him shooting volleys of automatic fire at the young girls.

The three soldiers, the first witnesses in the trial of Pvt. Ahmed Daqamsa, told a five-man army tribunal that Daqamsa threatened to shoot them too when they tried to intervene.

"I heard shooting... I saw Ahmed Daqamsa pointing his rifle at the Israeli girls and shooting at them," Pvt. Bilal Hassan told the court.

"He said: I'll shoot anyone who gets near me... You're all cowards," Hassan said, adding that Daqamsa carried on firing until his rifle jammed.

Daqamsa could face the death penalty for his March 13 attack.



Supporting coexistence

Former president Yitzhak Navon (right), chairman of the Abraham Fund's public council, shakes hands with former soccer star and Hapoel Taiba coach Rifat Turk, a new member, at its inaugural session at the Arab-Jewish community center in Jaffa yesterday. Founded in 1989, the fund supports projects furthering coexistence between Arab and Jewish citizens. *(Israel Hadas)*

Computer, 3, Sharansky, 0

By MARILYN HENRY

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky yesterday was bested in three 30-minute chess games by Deep Blue Jr., a scaled-down version of the IBM super-computer, Deep Blue, that defeated chess champion Garry Kasparov last month.

"Even though it is a less powerful version [of Deep Blue], it is still a very powerful chess-playing machine," said IBM spokesman Fred McNeese. "This is not a kid's game." The machine has never been beaten by a grand master, according to the IBM spokesman, although he could not say how grand masters had failed.

When it is not playing chess, the RS/600-SP computer is used for such projects as weather forecasting and pharmaceutical testing. "It was a pleasure to play against the impressive capability of the computer," Sharansky said after the match at the IBM research center in Yorktown, New York. "To see and feel the power of the technology encourages you to rise above competitive emotions and reach deeper into your own intellect."

Sharansky, a mathematician who played chess games in his head during his periods of isolation in prison in the Soviet Union, sat on one side of the chess board. The computer operator, sitting at the other side of board with a monitor and keyboard, typed in Sharansky's moves. The computer made its calculations and decided what moves should be next.

Sharansky played against Kasparov in October when the grand master visited Israel.

As one of 25 competitors simultaneously playing against Kasparov, Sharansky won his match.

Mordechai rejects pullout

By LIAT COLLINS

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday completely rejected calls by some MKs for a unilateral IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. The issue was raised in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, where MK Haim Ramon (Labor) particularly voiced favor for a pullback. Asked later by reporters about the movement of mothers of soldiers calling for a pullback, Mordechai said: "I would prefer it if Israeli

mothers would turn their energies instead into strengthening IDF soldiers and officers and our overall security capabilities.

"I believe that as long as there is no diplomatic solution in Lebanon it would not be right for us to change our operations there. A unilateral withdrawal will worsen the situation. It will bring us to an all-out conflict," he said. He said pulling out of Lebanon would bring terrorists to the border and Israel would have no choice but to cross back to take action.

Netanyahu bids Peres farewell

By SARAH HONIG

Outgoing Labor chairman Shimon Peres received what was perhaps the warmest farewell of all last night from none other than the man who defeated him in last year's election - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

It all happened on Dan Shilon's Channel 2 interview program.

Netanyahu put himself in Peres' shoes, saying that he knows Peres "has been through difficult days lately, when it seems that you have no friends or that all of your friends have left you, but the man talking to you now is a man who recognizes your contribution to this country and who wishes you

that you will continue to contribute."

Shilon revealed that "it took no more than a second for Netanyahu to agree to appear on the show we were planning for Peres and he even asked me personally to treat Peres kindly because he deserves it."

Netanyahu admitted that "Peres and I have had our disagreements and I will not paper over them, but we must be open to appreciate the positive in people. The greatest danger facing us now, as in our past, is gratuitous hate."

Peres was visibly touched and said to Netanyahu: "We all live in and serve the same state and I appreciate your gesture tonight."

MORDECHAI

Continued from Page 1

"We don't give them new identities, but we set them up wherever they want to go - sometimes down the block, sometimes they move to Ramallah, sometimes to Amman, sometimes to the Upper West Side of Manhattan."

Arabs who sold land to Jews were at risk before, the first source said, "but I think it's the first time that it is organized. People who dealt with us were under threats, and they were even shot sometimes - maybe three or four cases - during the time they were dealing with us. But it was amateur, and the people who were selling the land felt secure because they were living in Jerusalem, with Israeli police and everything."

"Now what's changed in the situation is that it's not a movement against selling the land, it's not some gang, but the Palestinian Authority. So when they want to kill someone they kill. You can't say that before [land sellers] weren't scared and now they are scared. They're always a little scared, only now a little more

so. We hope that the state will be involved in this, because it's much more serious than before."

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza demanded that Netanyahu investigate charges that the PA has recommended passing a bill calling for Moslem land dealers who transfer or sell lands to non-Moslems to be imprisoned at hard labor or executed.

Meanwhile, Arutz 7 radio reported yesterday that there had been another attempt to kidnap an Arab land dealer on Saturday night. It said three PA policemen attempted to break into the home of Mohammed Abu Meleh, in Samir Amis, near Atarot. Meleh's home is close to an IDF base, and soldiers were alerted by the shouts of family members and arrived at the scene. The Palestinian policemen fled and Meleh went into hiding.

Tayar said that the hot line set up by the council and Land of Israel Front nearly two weeks ago has received several hundred calls from Palestinians who feel threatened by the PA.

Over the past few days the hot line has also received its own threatening calls, she said.

EL AL

Continued from Page 1

Rubinstein told the committee that the report that the prohibition on El Al Shabbat flights is contained in Section 4a of the 1982 Government Companies Law. Once the company is in private hands that section is no longer applicable, he said.

However, Transport Ministry Director-General Nahoum Langental, a member of the committee, said his legal adviser is looking at the possibility of restricting El Al Shabbat flights on grounds that the religious status quo must be upheld.

"The price we get is important, but so is Shabbat," said Langental. One of the possibilities being examined by Langental, with full support from Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, is to allow El Al to fly on Shabbat, but to assure that this does not result in increased traffic volume at Ben-Gurion Airport. This would mean, however, that foreign airlines would have to give up some Shabbat flights, and this would likely have serious

consequences for Israel's relationship with foreign airlines and their respective governments, according to Knesset Economics Committee chairman Eli Goldschmidt (Labor).

Ahead of the report's publication, Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) called yesterday for Ben-Gurion Airport to be completely closed over Shabbat.

"El Al is concerned that it is losing out to competitors on Shabbat," said Ravitz. "This is my creative idea that will end the issue of competition."

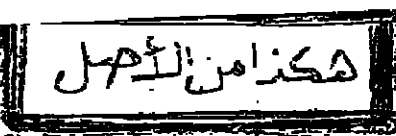
Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush (UTJ) also said he will fight any plan for El Al to fly on Shabbat.

Asked whether El Al could survive without government subsidies while not flying on Shabbat, company managing director Yoel Feldschuh said: "I doubt it."

The committee, chaired by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's economics adviser Moshe Leon, rejected the idea of selling El Al directly to foreign investors or floating the company on the bourse in two or three stages.

The Israel Association for Canadian Studies
and
The Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies
Co-sponsored by the Government of Canada and Ralph and Roz Halbert, Toronto
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CANADA IN WORLD CULTURE
The Role of Canadians in the International Imagination
To be delivered by:
Robert Fulford
Massey College, University of Toronto
Saturday Night Magazine
The Globe and Mail
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IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Lack of venom made Labor race a snoozer

The 1992 Labor Party leadership primary, which boiled down to yet another race between bitter rivals Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin, provided the country with plenty of fiery rhetoric and mudslinging. That was a campaign that had heat and emotion.

The 1993 Likud Party leadership primary, which came down to a race between Benjamin Netanyahu and David Levy, gave the country a non-existent videotape, as well as great epithets like "cel" and "Napoleon." Now there was passion.

Today's 1997 Labor Party leadership primary, widely viewed as

nothing more than an Ehud Barak coronation, has given the country nothing. Dull. Blah. The Big Yawn.

"Politics is like sport," said Romi Rimon, a media consultant who has been involved in numerous political campaigns, including those of Yitzhak Mordechai, Ehud Olmert and Shlomo Lahat. "If you don't hate your rival, you can't beat him." Which is one of the reasons why the current Labor primary has been so boring, so lacking the proverbial "beef." There was no hate.

The Peres-Rabin rivalry stretched back years. In the process much baggage accumulated, much enmity developed. They wrote

nasty things about each other in books. They seemed to genuinely dislike each other - prior, at least, to the 1992 general elections and the Great Reconciliation. This high-profile rivalry made for ugly scenes, but exciting campaigns.

The same could be said of the Netanyahu-Levy rivalry. Though their dislike for one another did not span the decades, as was the case with Peres and Rabin, the quality of their enmity made up for what it lacked in quantity. This hatred peaked with Netanyahu's televised accusation that "a senior member of the Likud, surrounded by crooks who practice Mafia methods" was behind an alleged attempt to black-

mail him over an extramarital affair.

None of this hostility exists between the four Labor candidates vying in today's race. "The candidates don't hate each other enough to make headlines," Rimon said.

"If someone is going to exacerbate the campaign it is going to be the number two in the race," he said. "But look at the personalities involved. They [Labor contenders Yossi Beilin, Shlomo Ben-Ami and Ephraim Sneh] don't have aggressive personalities...I am not saying that Beilin is a poodle, but he wages his campaign under the table. The Likud wages its campaign above the table."

Motti Morell, a media consultant who played a key role in Netanyahu's recent campaign, as well as Rabin's successful 1992 election campaign, said that one of the reasons for the lack of passion in today's Labor contest is the lack of "history" between the candidates. Even the camps that have begun forming around Beilin and Barak are ad-hoc camps, he said, more the result of jumping on a bandwagon than examples of good old-fashioned political camps that follow a candidate through thick and thin.

"Political campaigns are wars," Morell said. "It is your army against the enemy. The winning

army is the one with the activists, with the camps. The camps are what makes the noise. There are no real camps now in Labor." As a result, he said, there has been little noise.

Another reason Morell said this primary campaign lacked the fury of previous ones is because none of the candidates have succeeded in genuinely exciting their supporters.

"People are not overly excited about Barak," Morell said. "He has not succeeded in creating a close and warm rapport with the voters. People support him because they think he can win, and that there is no one better. As someone was

quoted in the paper the other day, 'the head is with Barak, but not the heart.'"

Another reason for the lackluster campaign, according to Rimon, is because only Barak really expected to win, while the other three candidates seemed to have entered the race to improve their standing in the party. When winning is not on the agenda, Rimon said, there is not going to be a lot of excitement.

"It was not a fair fight," Rimon said. "It was really no contest. It's like a basketball game. If one of the teams is far superior to the other, and it is clear who is going to win, the crowd is not going to come out and watch."

ANALYSIS

52 percent is the magic number for Labor's leader

By SARAH HONIG

There is no one anywhere in politics who does not expect frontrunner Ehud Barak to come out well ahead in today's Labor leadership primary. But there is still the question of what will constitute good news for him and what his three rivals - MKs Yossi Beilin, Ephraim Sneh, and Shlomo Ben-Ami - would consider success or failure in their own races.

Since Barak's victory is regarded as a foregone conclusion, interest now centers on the size of that victory. The prevailing wisdom among political observers is that Barak must top or at least equal the 52 percent of the total garnered in February 1993 by Benjamin Netanyahu in the Likud primary, in which four runners raced for the leadership, just as in Labor today. That unequivocal majority bestowed upon Netanyahu immunity from challenges. Barak may not face the passionate vendetta which David Levy mounted in the Likud, but potentially no less dangerous for Barak is Labor's off-proven proclivity to factionalize and to engage in internecine conflicts whose root causes had long been forgotten.

Technically Barak needs only to come away with 40 percent in order to be declared Labor's new chairman in the first round. Failure on his part to jump this

relatively low hurdle would detonate a real bombshell. A second round is simply not expected by anyone in the party, despite Beilin's oft-repeated prediction that he would draw Barak into a runoff.

Barak says he would be happy with 48 percent, but it is no secret in Labor that Netanyahu had made 52 percent the magic target, which - if only for prestige purposes - Barak must now try to match.

Everyone expects Beilin to come in second and he has been compared to Levy, though - when it comes to ideological commitment and gentlemanly demeanor - Ze'ev Begin probably makes for a far more apt analogy. Levy won 26 percent of the Likud total in his showdown with Netanyahu. Such a figure, it is said in Labor, would more than please Beilin, although 30 percent would help more to cement his claim to the No. 2 slot and ward off future challenges from Haim Ramon, who is still waiting in the wings and who has promised to take Barak on in 1999.

More than he endangers Barak, Ramon threatens Beilin's leadership of Labor's dovish wing. Ramon is letting Beilin take the risks now. He has not even any help to Beilin, but he may want later to steal Beilin's camp from under him. The better Beilin would do today, the

better would be his chances of deterring Ramon and the stronger would be his future claim on the foreign affairs portfolio, be it in a real or a shadow government. That would be a true achievement for Beilin, who, despite being one of the Oslo agreement's progenitors, barely made it into the last Labor government and even that in a very lowly capacity.

Staking claims for future status and portfolios is the name of the game for underdogs Sneh and Ben-Ami. Ben-Ami came from nowhere and barely won placing on the Knesset list last year, and that only after party leader Shimon Peres pulled lots of strings on his behalf.

All that barely helped get him into the Knesset in Labor's last (34th) slot, and even that only thanks to surplus vote deals. Despite his claim to represent the poor Sephardis, Ben-Ami has become the darling of Tel Aviv's trendiest yuppies. If he comes away with 10 percent of the total, he will have performed an incredible political feat.

Polls predict only 4 percent for Sneh and what he wants most now is not to finish last. If one of Labor's stars during the Rabin years is defeated by newcomer Ben-Ami, it would mean a terrible blow. But if the likable Sneh comes in third, he will be able to rise on the party's totem pole by virtue of his also-ran status.



Turkish lawmakers here

A delegation of Turkish pro-Islamist parliamentarians - (from left) Ali Cuskun, Necati Cetinkaya, Abdulkadir Aksu, and Cemil Cicek - is received by Foreign Minister David Levy at the ministry in Jerusalem yesterday.

(Bryan McBurney)

The candidates



Labor Showdown

Ehud Barak
Age: 55
Birthplace: Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon
Education: BS in physics and mathematics, The Hebrew University; MS in Economic Engineering Systems, Stanford University.
Reserve rank: Lieutenant-general (former IDF chief of staff)
MK since 1996

Education: PhD, Tel Aviv University; DPhil, Oxford University
Reserve rank: Sergeant
MK since 1996

Ephraim Sneh
Age: 53
Birthplace: Tel Aviv
Education: MD, Hebrew University
Reserve rank: Brigadier-general
MK since 1992

Yossi Beilin
Age: 49
Birthplace: Petah Tikva
Education: PhD, Tel Aviv University
Reserve rank: Sergeant-major
MK since 1988

Shlomo Ben-Ami
Age: 53
Birthplace: Morocco, immigrated to Israel in 1955

Compiled by Uriel Heilman

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

Rubinstein wants withdrawal of anti-missionary bill

MK Arnon Rubinstein (Meretz) has asked Nissim Zivli (Labor) and Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) to withdraw their joint private members' bill that would ban the distribution of missionary material, particularly fliers and pamphlets distributed in mail boxes.

Rubinstein said the bill, which passed preliminary reading in February, has provoked an angry reaction among Christian communities that are friendly to Israel.

Although Gafni has stressed that the law will not be anyone from owning or reading the New Testament, this is not the impression given in the foreign press, said Rubinstein. He cited an Israeli Radio interview with the ambassador to Britain who said the bill had been incorrectly interpreted there and had caused a serious response even among pro-Israel people.

Knesset panel supports striking psychologists

The Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday discussed the ongoing strike by the psychologists in the public sector and voiced unanimous support for the strikers. Committee chairman Maxim Levy (Gesher), called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to help end the strike.

"It's inconceivable that at the same time the prime minister is holding a campaign against domestic violence there are no job slots for psychologists who are meant to deal with the problem," Levy said.

Meanwhile, Knesset Education Committee Chairman Emanuel Zissman (Third Way) and MK Raby Rivlin (Likud) are calling on the government to help end the strike by junior academic staff at Tel Aviv University.

Knesset launches Public Complaints Committee

The Knesset Public Complaints Committee held its first meeting

yesterday, and was welcomed with an address by Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon. Committee chairman Rafi Elul (Labor) said the committee would try to be an address for those complaints that reach the Knesset but would otherwise not be dealt with. It will also act to make the handling of public complaints by government bodies more efficient.

Proposal would make media liable for racist material

Anyone in the media who pub-

lishes material inciting to racism would be liable to a three-month prison sentence under a bill submitted by MK Tzvi Weinberg (Yisrael Ba'aliya). Weinberg's bill also applies to cases when the publication was made through negligence or oversight.

It would complement existing legislation which determines that anyone who deliberately publishes racist material could be sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

Weinberg said the press sometimes publishes items that incite

the public against specific ethnic groups, either because it has not given the item the necessary consideration or because "it sells papers."

Chinese parliamentarians visit Knesset

Members of the Chinese parliament visited the Knesset yesterday as the guests of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The five-member delegation was led by Zhou Jie. It is their second visit here.

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NEWS

in brief

Deri co-defendant denies witness testimony

Rabbi Arye Weinberg, on trial with Shas MK Aryeh Deri for fraud, told the Jerusalem District Court yesterday that much of state's witness Ya'acov Shmuelevitz testimony was untrue. Weinberg, who headed the Lev Banim Yeshiva where Shmuelevitz succeeded Deri as director, denied Shmuelevitz's testimony that Deri had given or sent the yeshiva a large sum of money in response to a plea for help. Weinberg also denied Shmuelevitz's testimony that Deri had promised him and defendant Yom Tov Rubin NIS 500,000 or NIS 600,000 in funding, if 75 percent of that went back to Shas before the next elections. *Itim*

Parents of terror victim donate Torah scroll

A Torah scroll written in the memory of David Boin, killed by terrorists a year ago while waiting at a bus stop outside Beit El, was presented yesterday by his parents Alexander and Joyce Boem to the yeshiva in Beit El where their son studied. Thousands attended the ceremony, including President Ezer Weizman, Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan. At the ceremony portions were left for Weizman, Dayan and Lau to add. *Margot Dudkevitch*

New Internet site offers info on citizens' rights

An Internet site offering a database with a large amount of information relating to government services and citizens' rights has been opened by the Science Ministry and the Citizens Advisory Service (CAS). The site, located at <http://shil.huji.ac.il>, cost NIS 300,000 to set up and was developed by Hebrew University and Ben-Gurion University researchers. It is part of the ministry's project aimed at expanding use of computer telecommunications by increasing awareness in the general public and decisionmakers of its potential. CAS, run by the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, supplies advice on rights and liabilities regarding social security, health, disability and legal matters to the various authorities. It supplies 350 volunteers and staffers in 44 towns, answering over 100,000 queries a year. *Judy Siegel*

All schools going on Internet

Within three years, most of the country's schools will be hooked up to the Internet and to an in-house intranet allowing pupils to communicate with counterparts in other schools. This is to be made possible by a national school telecommunications project, which will be implemented by a consortium including Tadiran Information Systems, Internet Zahav, Bezeq Zahav, Martnet, Hoffman, and Eshed. The program will be carried out with full cooperation from the Union of Local Authorities and begin as a pilot project in 50 schools. *Judy Siegel*

Yad Sarah helps one of three families

One out of every three families in the country has used the voluntary services of Yad Sarah, according to a new Dahaf poll. The percentage is even higher, 48%, in Jerusalem and environs, where the organization has its headquarters. Yad Sarah was founded by Rabbi Uri Lupoliansky in his home 21 years ago to lend out simple medical equipment. Now it has over 4,000 volunteers and numerous branches around the country, with 250,000 people helped each year. *Judy Siegel*

J'm Day proposed as holiday

Knesset Law Committee suggests making 28 Iyar optional work day

By **BATSHEVA TSUR**

Jerusalem Day - 28 Iyar on the Hebrew calendar - would be an official holiday and an optional day off work, under a draft proposal adopted yesterday by the Knesset Law Committee.

National Religious Party MK Hanan Porat, who put forward the bill, said it had originated with the late deputy defense minister Mordechai Gur, who commanded the troops that captured eastern Jerusalem in 1967.

"It is a fitting legacy to Gur, who said that 'Jerusalem will remain ours forever,' that this law should be brought before the Knesset on the 30th anniversary of the liberation of the

city," Porat told the committee. He said the law had received the support of almost the entire Jewish membership of the Knesset when introduced originally but that later there had been reservations from some Labor MKs. It was never brought to a second and third reading.

The bill is modelled on the legislation that makes Independence Day a national holiday but does not make it a mandatory vacation day. It allows workers to choose it as one of two optional holidays.

Committee chairman Shaul Yabalom (NRP) said the government supported the proposed legislation. MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz), however, said

that "not all the citizens of this country get up on Jerusalem Day with the same feelings in their hearts as on Independence Day... Jerusalem Day lacks the authenticity of a real holiday," he said. "Legislation does not create a norm of festivity." Zucker later abstained in the vote.

Third Way MK Alex Lubotzky noted that the connection of certain segments of the population to Jerusalem was waning.

"Making Jerusalem a very religious city means that certain sectors feel cut off and this is a real problem. We have to turn Jerusalem again into a national issue, especially because of the upcoming negotiations over the city," he said.

Recalling the tremendous national excitement 30 years ago when Jerusalem was reunited, Labor MK Yael Dayan said: "Jerusalem does not require any special holidays. It is part of our national calendar and united forever - though not for the Arab citizens who were conquered. It is so close to Independence Day and all the festivities for that day are in Jerusalem. So why do we have to mark it with another special holiday?"

Dayan's reference to the city's "conquest" irked Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who attended part of the meeting.

"I can't understand how there can be a Jew who does not want Jerusalem Day," he said.

Knesset panel calls for more Ethiopian immigration

By **LIAT COLLINS**

The government should bring here within a few months the Falash Mura waiting in Addis Ababa to immigrate to Israel, the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee determined in its conclusions and recommendations on the problem presented yesterday.

The committee discussed a motion by MK Adisu Massala (Labor) and MK Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) who recently visited Addis Ababa.

"The Interior Ministry's policy of dragging out the immigration process of the Falash Mura is prolonging the suffering of the whole community," said committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud). "The committee's decisions unequivocally reflect our intention that the transit camp at Addis Ababa should be disbanded and the residents brought to Israel."

The committee issued a list of resolutions at the end of the meeting stating, among other things, that it is "a major national and Zionist obligation to bring the Falash Mura to Israel." Blumenthal described it as "a humanitarian issue," stressing that "every Jew has the right to immigrate to Israel." The MKs said all the approximately 3,500 Falash Mura waiting in the Addis Ababa camp should be brought here based on the names listed in the "community book" after being identified and approved by a special team appointed by the government.

The committee members said that the prolonged stay in the camp is one of the factors behind the spread of AIDS among the community and rejected a demand - supported by MK Ophir Pines (Labor) - that AIDS sufferers or carriers be refused the right to immigrate.

The committee also said the immigrants should be allowed to "complete the process of returning to Judaism within a reasonable period of time." This phrase was strongly condemned by Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, but supported by Porat who said it is the only way to facilitate their absorption here.

After submitting its recommendations, the committee gave the relevant government ministers three months to report back on the progress in their implementation.



Homage to Eli Cohen

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Nadia Cohen, widow of master spy Eli Cohen, view the launching of an Internet site yesterday in his memory. The site depicts his intelligence activities before he was caught and hanged in Syria in 1965. Hammer said the Education Ministry is also producing a pamphlet and a film on Cohen for use in schools. *(Efraim Klibick)*

Make mine magic

By **HELEN KAYE**

An eager little six-year-old boy in a karate outfit chops down on green and blue tissue paper, splitting it. "Hey," squawks magician Ilan Biton, "Hey! No fair!", and some 100 three-to-seven-year-olds giggle rapturously, then yell "abracadabra" as Biton crumples up the torn tissue which magically metamorphoses

into a blue paper hat that he plunks onto the boy's head.

Biton, 25, is performing on the Jerusalem Theater plaza twice an evening twice a week for the duration of the Israel Festival. A Jerusalemite, he has been a conjurer since he was 15 years old, attracted by the intricate sleight-of-hand required. He performs hundreds of times a

year, he says, and counts the German ambassador, the Palestinian Authority, and mall managements among his clients.

"I've had him twice for my kids' birthday parties," says bystander Noa Mazar. "He's wonderful."

Biton connects, well, magically with his young audience and is swamped with willing volunteers at every show - like the five-year-old

in an orange T-shirt who squeals with delight as Biton whips from under her nose the rope he's asking her to cut, and then reproaches her for not cutting it.

Biton does 40-50 tricks per show, including levitating one of his young volunteers.

"If you give them warmth and affection, they respond because they're children," he says.

First hand from 2nd Hand Dance

By **HELEN KAYE**

"Now that I'm here, I wish I'd brought my wife and son along," said Andy Horowitz at yesterday's press conference, adding that his dance company's tight schedule, not security considerations, had led him to leave the family at home.

Along with Greg O'Brien (no hair) and Paul Gordon (hairy), the pony-tailed Horowitz is the Second Hand Dance Company, currently delighting audiences at the Israel Festival with the witty show it calls "sculpture in motion."

Horowitz says that he's the last one in his family to visit here. His parents, both professors, have lectured at Haifa University. His

brother and sister were on kibbutzim.

As for O'Brien, he says that "my future father-in-law had to come halfway around the world to see our show for the first time."

O'Brien is marrying Monica Bilson, the daughter of fortepianist Malcom Bilson, who performed at St. Andrew's Church last Friday.

Best friends offstage and colleagues for 10 years on it, each piece in their program is a true collaboration, and, say the members of the personable trio, they never quarrel. Instead, they talk things out "and don't let our egos get in the way. Flexibility is the key word."

Maybe they should come here and give a workshop to our MKs.

What's on at the Festival



Jerusalem Theater
 Sherover - Nadj dance, *Habakkuk*, 9 p.m.
 Henry Crown - baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky, vocal, 9:30 p.m.
 Plaza - Magic show, juggling, etc. for kids, 5:45 p.m. Israel
 White Rainbow ensemble, 7 p.m.; Black Velvet with Irish music, 9 p.m. Free.
 Henry Crown court - juggler-clown, Ofer Blum, 6:30 p.m.
 Little Theater - Piano marathon, classical music, 8 p.m. Free.
 Foyer - jazz, Leonid Trio with Aral Kaminski, 10:30 p.m.
 Hangar Talpiot - Zik, *Ezerik*, last show, 9 p.m.

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Jospin named French PM

By ELDAD BECK
and news agencies

PARIS — Socialist Lionel Jospin was named France's new prime minister yesterday, a day after leftists won parliamentary elections on vows to cut record unemployment and ease the rough road to European integration.

Conservative President Jacques Chirac tapped Jospin just two hours after center-right Prime Minister Alain Juppe formally resigned.

Sunday night's defeat for Chirac's conservative coalition and Jospin's appointment give the Socialist leader the mandate to form a coalition government within two weeks.

A jubilant Jospin, talking to reporters on the steps of the presidential palace, called his meeting with Chirac "excellent." Jospin said he will form a new government "quickly, within the week."

Juppe and Jospin agreed to hold the formal hand-off of power this morning at 11 a.m., the prime minister's office announced.

European Union foreign ministers yesterday sought to play down fears that the sweeping election victory could delay the single currency and a new EU treaty.

At a meeting in Luxembourg to discuss the treaty, due to be agreed at an EU summit in Amsterdam in two weeks, ministers were gener-

ally cautious but said they saw no reason why the stunning triumph by the French left would disrupt plans.

"The realities of power will push things in the same direction as they have been," Germany Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told reporters.

"I think the economic austerity course will stay as far as the main points are concerned," he said. (But) there will be nuances." The French Socialists have said they are committed to economic and monetary union (EMU), but with conditions, including a flexible interpretation of the Maastricht treaty.

In Paris, leading members of the French Jewish community said they feared the victory of the left-wing parties might have negative impact on diplomatic relations between France and Israel, should the Middle East peace process remain frozen. "The new and young leadership of the Socialist party is very different from that of the old generation, which had a very strong sentimental and ideological attachment to Israel and the Zionism," said one Jewish leader.

"However, the young generations, that grew up in the pro third-world activism of the 60s and 70s, are largely in favor of the Palestinian cause and for tighter relations with the Arab

world," said the leader, who asked not to be named.

"Many of them are not only anti-Israeli but also anti-Zionist. The political bureau of the Socialist party counts only a very small number of members that are considered as close to Israel." The probable participation of the Communist Party (PC) in the government might also contribute to an anti-Israeli stance, some Jewish leaders think.

Although the Oslo agreements brought a real rapprochement between the French PC and Israeli officials, the deterioration since in Israel-Palestinian relations led brought Robert Hue — the general secretary of the Communist Party to cancel a planned first visit to Israel in March.

Prime minister-elect Jospin has defined himself as "a friend of Israel," but his opinions on Middle East issues are not clear. Israeli sources in Paris said French involvement in the Middle East — reactivated by President Jacques Chirac after his election two years ago — will probably become low profile. The new administration's top priorities are the economic and social crises and the European Union.

Also, since President Chirac under the constitution retains control of foreign relations, he is unlikely to allow the government an independent Middle East policy.



Members of the Revolutionary United Front rebels, who have joined with the Sierra Leone military in staging a coup against the government, man a checkpoint east of the capital, Freetown, yesterday.

Nigerian navy bombards Freetown

By JOHN CHAHAMEN

FREETOWN (Reuters) — Nigerian gunboats bombarded Sierra Leone's capital yesterday and fighting raged between Nigerian troops intervening to reverse an eight-day-old coup and Sierra Leone soldiers and rebels allied to coup leaders.

Shelling killed 12 people in the seafloor Aberdeen district and terrified residents fled the area carrying bundles of possessions on their heads. They said several more civilians had been killed in crossfire.

Rebels massed around a hotel in Aberdeen guarded by Nigerian troops where some 1,000 West Africans, Lebanese and Asians had taken refuge.

Hotel guests and Nigerian soldiers said the Nigerians were, hopelessly outnumbered, and the beachside hotel near the Sierra Leone military headquarters was about to be overrun.

In the city center, Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels and Sierra Leonean soldiers secured strategic positions in anticipation of an attack.

A spokesman for the military government,

speaking on national radio, called for protests against the intervention.

"We Sierra Leoneans are at the point of extinction, our beloved country at the brink of disintegration," he said. "Let us take to the streets now and say no to foreign intervention." Several thousand people waving placards and bunches of leaves as a sign of peace protested against the Nigerians, saying they did not support the May 25 military coup, but they opposed any foreign interference.

Nigerian ships in the bay west of Freetown began a bombardment at daybreak after talks between Nigerian and British diplomats and the coup leaders at the seafloor military headquarters collapsed.

Shelling was still going on at midday, and small arms fire could be heard outside the hotel and from the area around the military headquarters.

A reporter who went to Aberdeen said shelling had killed 12 people, including a couple and their grandson whose house suffered a direct hit.

The Nigerians said they took over the international airport at Lungi, north of the capital,

which had been under uneasy joint control since the coup. A Nigerian commander said the airport would be used to bring in reinforcements.

The coup leaders had accused civilian President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of failing to consolidate a peace accord signed last November and of encouraging ethnic conflict.

Support for the coup among the Sierra Leone military appears to be concentrated among low-ranking soldiers who have borne the brunt of spending cuts as part of plans to scale down the army under the peace accord, and resent the resources given to the civilian militia to fight the RUF.

In Harare yesterday for an Organization of African Unity summit, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged that the will of the people should become paramount in Africa and said he was revolted by the coup in Sierra Leone.

"Africa can no longer tolerate and accept as faits accomplis coups against elected governments and the illegal seizure of power by military cliques," he said. "Armies exist to protect national sovereignty and not to train their guns on their own people."

Canada's Chretien hopes to keep his job

OTTAWA (AP) — Tom by east-west, English-French factions and their disparate visions of the future, Canadians chose a new government yesterday in an election that highlights this nation's simmering political divisions.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien and his Liberal Party are expected to hold onto power, either by keeping the majority in Parliament they captured in a 1993 landslide or by running a minority government.

Chretien called the election 18 months early, primarily because polls showed he would win. But he bungled at the start, launching the five-week campaign as the worst flood of the century ravaged Manitoba.

Happily for them, the Liberals' prospects do not depend solely upon Chretien's popularity. They benefit from the fact that their two main opponents — the right-wing, western-based Reform Party and the separatist Bloc Quebecois — are so regional that neither fields candidates nationwide.

"I'm very confident," Chretien said yesterday as he voted in his district in St. Maurice, Quebec.

At stake yesterday were 301 seats in the House of Commons. The Liberals held 174 seats in the outgoing Parliament and are expected



PM Jean Chretien

to lose some seats. Twenty million voters were eligible to choose among the 1,672 candidates.

Few voters were reported yesterday morning at a polling station in Fredericton, the New Brunswick capital. The station had been jam-packed at the last election in 1993.

Top issues include Canada's 9.6 percent unemployment rate and how to respond to persistent demands by Quebec for more autonomy or even outright independence.

Still, this election has been less about issues and more about voting patterns that are becoming polarized along regional lines.

Under a divide-and-conquer situation that Chretien benefits from but did not create, Reform is expected to take nearly all of the 60 seats in the western provinces of British Columbia and Alberta.

Reform, led by Preston Manning, will probably replace the Bloc Quebecois as Parliament's main opposition party.

Manning has been called a racist bigot for his rejection of any special status for French-speaking Quebec, a charge he denies.

"Extremism is winning an argument with a Liberal," he told a partisan crowd in Calgary, Alberta.

The Bloc Quebecois faces a much tougher, three-way fight with the Liberals and the Progressive Conservatives in Quebec. It won 54 of the province's 75 seats in 1993, but probably will lose some seats after a gaffe-ridden campaign.

And with Reform and the Conservatives splitting the right-wing vote in Ontario, the Liberals are expected to roar through the nation's most populous province.

Despite the best efforts of charismatic Conservative leader Jean Charest, his party is rebuilding after being reduced to only two seats in 1993.

Last day of Algerian campaign marked by bloodshed

ALGIERS (Reuters) — Algerian forces, preparing to deploy to protect voters on Thursday, cast early ballots yesterday in a general election in which bombs killed 13 people and wounded more than 100 in the last two days of campaigning.

The latest bomb, yesterday morning, ripped through a market in the Algiers working class district of Bab El Oued, killing at least seven people and wounding 37.

It was the final day for around 8,000 candidates, running for 39 parties or as independents, to muster support in their bid for a place in the 380-seat National Assembly. A two-day "pause for reflection" precedes ballot day.

Two other bombs planted on buses and described by officials as criminal acts — their term for Moslem fundamentalist attacks —

killed 11 and wounded 77 on Sunday, newspapers reported yesterday. The official toll was seven dead and 77 wounded.

Residents in the crowded capital, home to between three and four million people, said a later blast yesterday — thought at first to be another bomb — coincided with security forces hunting Moslem rebels in west Algiers. One resident said security forces using grenades had killed four rebels.

Despite the fear wrought by the bombs, the final day of campaigning saw a surge at rallies in Algiers, the big prize with 24 seats in the National Assembly.

The Islamist-leaning Movement of a Peaceful Society (MPS) filled the 20,000-capacity Harchi stadium in Algiers where leader

Mahfoud Nahnah urged supporters to turn out in force.

"This bombing will not diminish people's enthusiasm to vote in order to recover trust in government," he told Reuters.

Around one-third of those at the rally were veiled women, a reminder of the MPS's former Islamic name Hamas, which it had to change to meet a new law banning parties using Islam as a platform.

The anti-Islamist secular party Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD) of Said Saadi was later using the same stadium for its final rally.

The National Democratic Rally (RND), grouping backers of President Liamine Zeroual and seen as a frontrunner, was putting on a concert at another stadium to

lure young voters.

State television showed uniformed soldiers and paramilitary forces queuing in barracks and military schools to cast their votes.

The authorities are expected to deploy around 200,000 security forces to try to protect the 16.77 million voters in Algeria's first parliamentary vote in five years of violence.

The country of 29 million plunged into conflict after the authorities in January 1992 cancelled a general election dominated by the radical and now-outlawed Islamist Salvation Front (FIS). About 60,000 people have died in the violence.

After yesterday's bomb in crowded Bouzina market, state radio said markets were being ordered to close from now until Friday.

Korean policeman killed in clashes

SEOUL (AP) — Students demanding the president's resignation attacked police lines with firebombs and metal pipes yesterday, sending thousands of officers into retreat. One policeman was killed, hospital officials said.

On the fourth straight day of battles in Seoul between students hurling firebombs and police firing tear gas, dozens of the retreating policemen were seen engulfed in orange flames.

Most were quickly rescued by fellow officers, but details of casualties were not immediately known.

Scores of policemen were sprawled on streets filled with abandoned helmets and shields and broken bottles. A lack of visibility due to dust and tear gas haze turned the police retreat into chaos.

About 10 policemen were captured by students and stripped of their gear. Some of them were bleeding.

Officials at Minjoong Hospital said police Cpl. Yoo Ji-woong was dead on arrival.

The National Police Agency said it was investigating the cause of the death. But national television station MBC, quoting police witnesses, reported that the 22-year-old policeman collapsed after he was hit by students wielding metal pipes.

In the past, the deaths of policemen in clashes have led the government to launch a nationwide crackdown on student movements, often triggering violent clashes on campuses — traditional hotbeds of political activism and protest.

Police sent reinforcements around Seoul's Hanyang University, where 7,000 students were holed up for a major rally today.

Students clutching metal pipes

and making fires with trash and wood stood guard at the school's entrances.

Earlier yesterday, the students fought running battles with police in downtown Seoul, turning their annual rally celebrating the foundation of their group into a campaign calling for President Kim Young-sam's resignation.

"Kim Young-sam step down!" the students chanted.

Opposition parties have accused the president of spending 20 times more than the legal limit for his 1992 election campaign. On Friday, he offered a vaguely worded apology for "past wrongdoings" but failed to disclose the amount.

That gave the declining student movement a new rallying cry.

British accept blame for Irish famine

DUBLIN (AP) — Britain's new prime minister has accepted British blame for the Irish potato famine 150 years ago, the first such acknowledgment of the country's role in prolonging the famine.

"Those who governed in London at the time failed their people through standing by while a crop failure turned into a massive human tragedy," Tony Blair said in a message sent to organizers of a weekend rock festival in Ireland marking the famine and celebrating Irish around the world.

Potato crops failed each year between 1845 and 1851 because of blight, leading to famine that killed more than a million of Ireland's 8 million people. Two million Irish emigrated during the famine, most to the United States.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton praised Blair's words in a statement, saying that while his comment "confronts the past honestly, it does so in a way that

heals for the future." Blair, Labor Party leader who came to power in May 1 elections, is the first British prime minister to acknowledge British blame for the famine.

The famine has left a bitter legacy between Ireland and Britain. Historians have argued for generations over the degree to which Britain, which then ruled Ireland, contributed to the disaster. During the famine, British authorities continued to allow food to be exported from Ireland.

"The famine was a defining event in the history of Ireland and of Britain. It has left deep scars," Blair said in his message, read Saturday at the festival by Irish actor Gabriel Byrne.

"That 1 million people should have died in what was then part of the richest and most powerful nation in the world is something that still causes pain as we reflect on it today." About 15,000 people attended the festival in Millstreet, 240 km southwest of Dublin.

Russian soldier kills 10 comrades, shoots self

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — A Russian soldier shot to death 10 of his comrades and wounded three before taking his own life at a military post in Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia, Russian military officers said yesterday.

Russian television and news agencies suggested that the soldier, a member of a Russian peace-keeping force in the region, was either drunk or wanted to avenge hazing.

But the peacekeepers' commander in Abkhazia dismissed that and said the soldier was mentally unstable.

"In my opinion, Sgt. Artur Vaganov's mental deviations were the reason for the murder of 10 peacekeepers," the commander, Lt. Gen. Dolia Babenkov, told the Interfax news agency.

Babenkov said Vaganov "prepared for the murder beforehand, disabling the weapons of fellow soldiers." "He wanted to kill all 19 men on duty at the 203rd post," the general added.

Defense officials earlier had said 11 soldiers were killed, but Russian military officers in Tbilisi, the

Georgian capital, told The Associated Press that 10 soldiers had been killed and three others wounded.

The wounded were in serious condition.

Vaganov, who enlisted in April, shot his comrades as they were sleeping Sunday and then killed himself, said the officers, who declined to be named.

But Babenkov said some of the victims tried to resist.

"Several of the soldiers who were later killed tried to resist the criminal but could not do so, as their machine-guns lacked breech-blocks," he said.

Deputy chief of Russia's ground forces Alexander Sokolov and military investigators arrived in Abkhazia to probe into the incident.

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze said he was worried by the tragic incident, which "evokes a feeling of both grief and serious concern." The shooting in Abkhazia was similar to several other incidents reported in recent years in the Russian military.

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Arafat's 'thugocracy'

The gangland-style murders of Palestinians suspected of selling land to Jews continued with the slaying of waiter Mahmoud Ali Jamhour on Saturday. After midnight that day, Israeli police foiled the abduction of another suspected land dealer, and arrested the six Palestinians who had taken him from his home near Jerusalem.

Four of the six Palestinians arrested are reportedly agents of the Palestinian security services. The denials by Palestinian leaders of a lack of official involvement in the murders are wearing thin. Reportedly, the Palestinians who were caught in the attempted kidnapping tried to dispose of a number of weapons during the chase, and one of these weapons was shown to have been used in the murders of two land dealers.

Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki, in a press conference on Sunday, stated that the police have evidence convincing them of high-level Palestinian Authority involvement. It might be thought that one murder, following the Palestinian proclamation of a death sentence for selling land to Israelis, would have accomplished the desired deterrent effect and the issue would be allowed to fade away. But according to a secret Israel Police document, the Palestinian Authority has a list of 16 suspected land dealers marked for death, including the three who have already been murdered. These murders must be stopped.

It is not hard to understand that the Palestinians would attempt to restrict in some way the sale of land to Israelis. Israel and other countries restrict the sale of land to foreigners, one way or another. It is quite another thing, however, to impose the death penalty for such an offense. And it is yet another thing to execute people with the sort of death squads that mark brutal dictatorships.

This is first and foremost a human rights issue, as a number of human rights groups — Palestinian, Israeli, and international — have recognized. A regime that arrogates to itself the right to murder land dealers one day, will murder journalists, human rights activists, and other people whom it finds inconvenient another day.

In fact, these murders are just the latest piece in the pattern of corruption, censorship, and arrests that increasingly typify the emerging Palestinian police state. This is also, however, a challenge to Israeli sovereignty. The land-dealer campaign has not been limited to Palestinians who live within the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority. Bashiri was an Israeli citizen and Jamhour lived in Jerusalem and held an Israeli residency permit.

Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein

has even said explicitly that "those who have taken Israeli identity cards and think they have become Israeli citizens, we recommend that they not think that will buy them protection... If he thinks because he has an Israeli identity card that we cannot try him, then we shall try him via other means."

In the context of the recent murders, such a statement can only be understood as a threat straight out of *The Godfather*. The problem is, this is no movie: these are Israel's partners in the peace process. Israel cannot tolerate a situation in which the Palestinian Authority kidnaps or kills Israeli Arabs at will.

It was appropriate, therefore, that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu held a special meeting of ministers, which decided to increase enforcement efforts, issue arrest warrants for Palestinians suspected in the murders, and protest Palestinian behavior in international human rights forums.

In addition, Netanyahu correctly pointed out the connection between Israeli sovereignty, the peace process, and Palestinian human rights, stating, "We know that those who do not respect the rights of their own people will not respect their neighbors."

The mystery here is why the Palestinians would, in public relations terms, shoot themselves in the foot so badly. Some have tried to blame it on desperation induced by Israel — Medein even went so far as to blame Israel for the murders themselves. Others, more plausibly, suggest that the campaign is a way to distract from Palestinians' growing criticism of corruption among their leaders. It would be a sad thing, of course, if murdering Palestinians were an effective way to increase popular support for Palestinian Authority.

Whatever the case, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat must realize that his regime is rapidly developing the reputation of a "thugocracy" — a reputation that is sure to damage the international cachet which both he and the Palestinian cause have enjoyed. An international conference of donors to the Palestinian Authority meeting in Washington this week will likely be affected, not only by widespread reports of corruption, but by these latest signs of barbaric behavior.

The challenge before Arafat, however, is much greater than repairing some bad publicity. He must realize that he is no longer heading a liberation movement in exile, but something that aspires to become a civilized state. The irony is that Arafat himself could become the greatest obstacle to fulfilling that aspiration.

A civilized campaign

Boring is perhaps the best word to describe the Labor Party leadership race, which ends today. For this, the four candidates are worthy of praise and thanks. It is a rare pleasure to report on a political contest in Israel that has been calm, civilized and courteous. There are those who say that a race in which the main runner is so far in front — according to the opinion polls, Ehud Barak has an unassailable lead — cannot be anything but boring; but such people know little of the Labor Party.

The pitiful and at times pathetic scenes surrounding Shimon Peres's vain attempt last month to move from the post of party chairman to a newly created one of party president were a case in point. It proved that, if it wants, the Labor Party and its leaders know how to put aside their common fight against the present government and unite in fighting among themselves.

Indeed, the temptation must have been there for Yossi Beilin, Shlomo Ben-Ami, and Ephraim Sneh to sling some mud at Barak in the hope of cutting down the majority he is expect-

ed to win today. Anything less than an outright (over 40 percent) victory for Barak would be seen as a defeat, while keeping him under the 52% Binyamin Netanyahu won when he ran for the Likud leadership will also hinder Barak's chances of taking the party by the scruff of the neck and installing himself as its undisputed leader.

True, the other contenders have accused Barak of arrogance for refusing, except for one television appearance, to share a public platform with his rivals; but as political insults go, this is small change indeed.

The question facing the Labor Party, once the votes have been counted, is whether the civilized discourse that marked the campaign will continue as the party adjusts to a new leader in the post-Rabin-Peres era, or whether the internecine political rivalries which did so much to keep Labor in opposition during the past two decades will again appear.

The new Labor leader is likely to find, as has Netanyahu, that winning an election is one thing, ruling his party another.

LABOR



The AIDS exception

The reviews are in on President Clinton's dramatic declaration pledging the US to finding an AIDS vaccine, moonshot-like, within 10 years. Apart from AIDS activists who complain that the president did not commit serious moonshot money to the enterprise, the reaction was mostly favorable. Who, after all, can be against a vaccine against anything?

No one seems to want to raise the obvious, if indelicate, question: Why embark on a huge national venture to create a vaccine for a disease that is already extraordinarily preventable?

Unlike most communicable diseases, AIDS is not contracted casually. Unlike tuberculosis, it is not contracted by being coughed on in the subway. Unlike dysentery, it is not contracted by drinking the wrong water.

To get AIDS you must, in all but the rarest cases, engage in complex consensual social behavior, namely unsafe sex or intravenous drug abuse.

It would be nice to live in a world where one could engage in such behaviors while enjoying vaccine-induced immunity.

But is that really a top national priority? Would any president propose as a top national priority an anti-lung-cancer vaccine so that people who smoke — and 48,000,000 Americans do — could do so with impunity? Nor do presidents call for a 10-year campaign to produce a vaccine against cirrhosis of the liver.

Why? Not because we want to stigmatize people who drink or smoke. But for a very practical reason: These behaviors being voluntary and preventable, it makes a lot more sense to spend the scarce intellectual, scientific and financial resources of the country trying to give people immunity from diseases they cannot otherwise protect themselves against.

The classic case is polio. When FDR contracted it in 1921, we had

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

not a clue how people got it. By the '50s, frightened parents were keeping their children away from swimming pools and movie theaters and even crowds. They lived in terror, not knowing what they might be doing that was contributing to their kids' chances of getting polio.

With no obvious behavioral cause, polio was the classic case

Why embark on a huge venture to create a vaccine for a disease that is already preventable?

of a disease crying out for a vaccine. Meningitis, cervical cancer and multiple sclerosis occupy a similar position today. But AIDS? Moreover, Clinton is calling for a huge technological innovation (which many in the field doubt is a reasonable prospect anyway) to prevent the spread of AIDS. Yet, at the same time, the traditional way of controlling the spread of communicable diseases has been largely abandoned in the case of AIDS. And uniquely in the case of AIDS.

We fight just about every epidemic — tuberculosis, syphilis, gonorrhea — by identifying carriers and warning their contacts. The usual epidemiological tracing has not been done for AIDS. Gay activists and civil libertarians have vociferously opposed it. And the politicians have caved in.

The story of this travesty — the effective suspension of traditional public health procedures for AIDS — is laid out in damning detail by Chandler Burr in the current *Atlantic Monthly* ("The AIDS Exception: Privacy vs. Public

Health"). AIDS has been so thoroughly exempted from traditional public health approaches," writes Burr, "that civil libertarians have defeated in court attempts by health authorities to notify the spouses of people who have died of AIDS that their husbands or wives were HIV-infected."

In 1985, in fact, gay activists brought suit to prevent the use of the first test for HIV, unless assured the tests would not be used for widespread screening of gays. Even today they oppose the mandatory HIV screening of pregnant women, even though we know that early treatment of the mothers would reduce by 50-75 percent the number of kids born with HIV.

"Traditional public health is absolutely effective at controlling infectious disease," says Dr. Lee Reichman, who works with tuberculosis and AIDS patients. "It should have been applied to AIDS from the start, and it wasn't. Long before there was AIDS, there were other sexually transmitted diseases, and you had partner notification and testing and reporting. This was routine public health at its finest, and this is the way STDs were controlled."

Marcia Angell, executive editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, is blunter than most: "I have no doubt... that if, for example, we screened all expectant mothers, we could prevent AIDS in many cases. And if we traced partners, we would prevent AIDS in many cases. And if we routinely tested in hospitals, we would prevent AIDS in many cases." And if we had a president with guts, he would be demanding these elementary measures to save people from getting AIDS today — instead of waving a wand and telling scientists to produce a magic vaccine for him 10 years from now.

© Washington Post Writers Group

Being certain

JEREMY MAISSEL

A hearty *mazel tov* to Anthony and Julie Cohn of Belsize Park, London, on the arrival of triplets last month. And three cheers to Anne Keep, 41, the surrogate mother who gave birth to them.

The Cohns had always wanted a family, but Julie was born without a womb. So the couple turned for help to an organization called Childlessness Overcome Through Surrogacy. COTS set their miracle in motion.

Anne Keep, mother of four and grandmother of three, is a pub cook from Redditch, Worcester, known in her home town for tooting around on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. She volunteered to become pregnant for the couple, and was impregnated with two fertilized embryos, one of which subsequently divided.

The babies, Gavriel Yitzhak, Eitan Shaltiel and Elmadav Yedidya, were born after only 29 weeks, but are doing well. The Cohns struck up an instant rapport with Keep, who selflessly gave the babies up immediately after birth.

Surrogacy yields its fair share of ethical questions. These only multiply when the case involves Jewish parents and halachic aspects. For the Cohns' triplets, barely born, there arose the issue of religious status.

Judaism is passed on matrilineally. Keep is not Jewish. Some rabbinical authorities hold that the birth mother is by rights the halachic mother because of the bonding of mother and baby during pregnancy and birth.

British civil law requires formal adoption of a child born to a host mother, and emeritus chief rabbi Lord Jakobovits wrote in the *Jewish Chronicle* saying that the children would have to go under conversion.

Yet in this case, where both parents are Jewish, genetically there is no doubt of the children's identity, and thus their religious status.

The eggs came from the moth-

The knee-jerk reactors would do well to stop and think about Jewish unity

er; the sperm from the father. So why make the babies go through conversion?

The Cohns, a religious couple, do not object. But for those who might, Lord Jakobovits has a compelling argument: "To the extent there is [any] doubt, one would urge the parents to avoid... questions on status being raised later on in life — by carrying out a formal conversion."

CASES of questionable religious status have arisen on a far greater scale in Israel.

When thousands of Ethiopian Jews arrived, they were urged to go through stringent conversion (*giyur lehamra*) so as to put their religious identity beyond any possible doubt.

Yet, almost as a knee-jerk reaction, objectors claimed that this was an insult to the Ethiopian community, whose Judaism did not deserve to be called into question.

But the question is really about lowest common denominators. When thousands of the new immigrants arrived in Israel, many among the general populace expressed qualms about the certainty of the Ethiopian Jews' religious status.

How better, then, to quash such uncertainty than by requiring the immigrants to go through a process which put their Judaism beyond any doubt?

This was especially important with this *aliya*, whose origin is so clearly displayed by their skin color.

The "lowest common denominator" argument also holds for the rabbinical courts having jurisdiction over matters of personal matters in Israel.

How better to dispel uncertainty about a person's halachic standing or religious status than putting it in the hands of religious and thus beyond doubt, even of the most scrupulously observant?

In our modern, liberal democratic Israeli state, secular Jews — with some justification — find it objectionable to have to "fit in" with halachic requirements in certain aspects of their personal life.

But the rationale is pragmatic rather than halachic. It is an attempt to make personal situations acceptable to religious as well as secular throughout all strata of the Jewish community. It is an attempt to promote unity and avoid dissent.

The writer is a journalist and Christian Zionist.

The writer, a religious educator, is a member of Kibbutz Alumim.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SMOKING ON PLANES

Sir, — Nice, cozy and friendly article ("Half the fun is flying there," May 22) — and I gather Sam Orbaum does not fly El Al regular class. That means that when you are placed in a non-smoking section two rows away from the smoking section, on a trip from the US to Israel, you spend 10 hours of miserable smoke inhalation. Very friendly indeed!

Having just returned from the US under this condition on a night flight, it was impossible to breathe or sleep. There were many of us in these "non-smoking" rows who suffered the same way.

I have spoken to others who traveled on different airlines around the same time period and was told frankly that this is the only reason they don't fly El Al. Other overseas airlines do not permit smoking at all.

SHULAMITH LIEBMAN

MAN VS. MACHINE

Sir, — Charles Krauthammer (April 20) says that Deep Blue defeated Kasparov because there was no way that the latter could "psych out" this "monstrously intelligent but utterly unfeeling machine." It so intimidated him that he felt "... it is trying to trick him; it is trying to block his ideas." Pre-dating Deep Blue was Adolf Eichmann who also was monstrously (in a difference sense) intelligent and (not but) utterly unfeeling.

With regard to machines, all of us need to resist the tendency to ascribe magical properties to what are our own creations. It is man's inhumanity to man with its infinite ghastly possibilities that remains the essential problem.

What is more truly terrifying than the prospect of an Eichmann with a Deep Blue level (and beyond) machine at his disposal?

MIRIAM L. GAVARIN

SHOCKING

Sir, — We were astounded by the reportage on May 9 by Larry Derner on Michael Karpin's documentary, *The Road to Rabin Square*, in which he quotes a telephone interview with Yigal Amir in his prison cell, wherein Amir pontificates on Rabin and Netanyahu.

Must we be subjugated to a convicted murderer's view on our leaders? Is there anyone in this country who is interested in reading about the views of a young man who perpetrated a heinous crime against the man whose life he took or about the incumbent leader?

It would also be interesting to know whether the right to hold telephone interviews with the press from a prison bed-sitter is the inalienable right of every murderer in this country.

RUTH BARATZ
HINDA KING

Karmiel.

Jerusalem.

Petah Tikva.

IN TUNE

Modern rock blasts the US

By DAVID BRINK

Anything you want, they got it right here in the USA. To paraphrase Chuck Berry, rock 'n' roll is thriving in the United States - but is more fragmented than ever.

Traveling around the country for the last couple of weeks, I've discovered that radio, in particular, has become so compartmentalized that you need to constantly switch stations to get a decent cross-section of rock past and present.

One heartening sign of the times is that the "classic rock" format that was dominating the radio markets for the last decade is gradually losing steam. The young recording public is getting fed up with those 10-minute epics by Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and Kansas from the 1970s and is determined to find music to call their own.

Despite this trend, you can still find a station in every city that is trotting out Boston and Foreigner as if they were the next big thing.

New York's flagship rock station, WNEW-FM, has given up all pretense of keeping up with trends and has gone "classic" full-time.

But the proliferation of "modern rock" stations which feature a gaggle of '90s artists based on the grunge/punk sound is gaining wider acceptance all the time.

The latest hits by the likes of Foo Fighters and the Mighty Mighty Bosstones were blaring out of every town that has a commercial modern rock or college radio station. The decibel level is exorcistically high on these stations, though, resulting in a mostly teenage listenerhip.

If your liking is more along the lines of heartland rockers like Springsteen, Mellencamp and Melissa Etheridge, there's no lack of "the classics of yesterday, the best of today" stations flourishing.

Most of these stations champion bands like The Gin Blossoms, R.E.M., and other non-threatening artists as "the best of today."

Then you have the stations that have always been based around the



British pop phenomenon the Spice Girls are all the rage in America.

top-40, rock-lite and R&B formats where the only common denominator right now is ... the Spice Girls! Just like in Israel.

Actually, the one artist who has succeeded in invading the most formats is the red-hot Jewel, the young Alaskan singer-songwriter who is

on the cover of every magazine, and was featured on *Saturday Night Live* last week. She is definitely the flavor of the moment.

Long Hot Summer

The US summer concert extravaganzas are gearing up. U2 is probably the biggest act on tour (they'll arrive in Israel in late September). But for most rock fans, the multi-act festivals are the place to be this summer.

This year's H.O.R.D.E. festival features Neil Young and Crazy Horse and The Black Crowes, in addition to its usual '60s revisitors.

The Further Festival, featuring Dead relics and hangers-on like Bob Weir, Bruce Hornsby and Hot Tuna is gearing up for a second summer tour. And for the modern rock fans, there's always the Lollapalooza and other assorted festivals featuring the best of '90s rock.

And of course, it wouldn't be summer without Ringo Starr visiting the sheds with his All-Starr Band, this year featuring once-greats from Procol Harum, Bad Company and Cream.

Rock Hall of Fame

The Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame held its annual induction ceremonies last month with the televised festivities dominating the US's television music channels' schedules recently with repeated screenings.

Highlights included the induction of Buffalo Springfield, The Rascals and Crosby, Stills and Nash.

The Springfield's appearance was especially entertaining, with its past members symbolizing the fragmentation of the '60s generation. Guitarist Richie Furay is a devout Christian, bassist Bruce Palmer is a devout hippie, drummer Dewey Martin a Nashville slicker, and of course Steven Stills and no-show Neil Young represents the 50-year-old rockers.

A sizzling live performance by the Rascals, regrouped for one night, was a riveting reminder of how good they still are.

An advocate for Jupiter

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Five years ago Eitan Habermann, then 44, saw an ad for a conducting workshop organized by the Open University. "It was a workshop for professionals and amateurs alike. I could not even read music at the time but nevertheless I enrolled."

This Saturday Habermann will go on stage, raise his hand and conduct that terribly difficult symphony, Mozart's *Jupiter*, with the Israel Chamber Orchestra in front of him, at the Jaffa Music Hall.

What is a successful advocate, indeed one of the candidates for attorney-general during the Bar-On Affair, doing in the world of classical music?

"Music has been an important part of my life since I was five or six. When I was in eighth grade I was supposed to sing Zaccaria in a school production we did of Verdi's *Nabucco*. But during the rehearsal period my voice broke and I had to give my singing debut up. As compensation my teacher gave me what he described as the most important role in the production, to lift the curtain up."

Nabucco continued to play a major role in Habermann's life. Two years ago when the New Israeli Opera staged *Nabucco*, three fifths of the Habermann family met on stage. Habermann's wife Shuli was a member of the chorus and two of their three children, Dani (14) and Michael (8) participated as extras. Habermann himself and his first born Uri (17) watched from the other side of the proscenium.

Habermann is as excited about the world of law, especially public constitutional law which he is involved with. "I feel like I really

contribute a little bit to the shaping of our democracy. These are not just pretty words, I really mean it. I have this feeling that with my work I do leave something after me, at least the spirit of the legal decisions."

After that first conducting workshop, Habermann enrolled a second time two years later and earlier this season auditioned for the ICO. To his utter surprise he was accepted as the conductor in a special fund-raising concert.

To prepare for the concert, "I listened to as many recordings of *Jupiter* as possible, then I learned the score by heart." He also worked with conductor Itai Talgam.

Habermann, who was born with one hand only, "always dreamed of conducting but maybe I never attempted it because of my hand. Technically it does not bother me at all. Initially I thought of conducting without a baton, but two weeks ago I worked with Talgam and tried it with a baton. ... I will conduct the concert with the baton."

If Habermann had the chance, would he have changed his life and concentrate on music instead of law, and does he consider stretching his conducting adventure past the coming concert? "I don't know, it's a hard question. I cannot perceive conducting as something partial. I will be more than happy to conduct again if I will have the opportunity. I know there will be mistakes and problems when I'm on the podium, I'm not naive. The point is will it be creative?"

"I will never conduct just as a gimmick. I will only do it if I prove to myself that I can actually say something. However you must realize that the fact that I conduct an orchestra does not mean that suddenly I am a conductor."

Hope for 'Dead Souls'

By HELEN KAYE

Gilles Maheu loves to laugh. Laughter punctuates the sentences as he speaks about his work, and a bit about himself, saying, "I've developed a sense of humor in the last 10 years. I don't even mind when critics laugh at me."

Not that they often do. Maheu, 49, is the founding artistic director of Carbone 14, the award-winning Canadian dance theater company. It makes its Israel Festival debut on Thursday, with his *Dead Souls* "that has nothing to do with the Gogol novel except the name," says the man who's listed on his bio as actor, author, director, choreographer and designer.

He is talking about the show from his Montreal home where it has snowed two days prior, the day the company premiered his latest show, aptly titled *Winter*, and he giggles tickledly.

But there is nothing funny about *Dead Souls*, which spans both generations and time. Its characters share memory and experience in an empty, dilapidated house whose very walls seem as alive as they are.

"I read the Gogol book in my teens, and loved it," says Maheu buoyantly, "but my dead souls are those of the abandoned house and the 'street people' of today. I am also powerfully moved by today's young people, their despair which can turn them to drugs. If you need a fix, it means you have no hope."

The characters of *Dead Souls*, which premiered in April last year, are an old man and a little girl, lovers, addicts, couples all, past and present, intertwined in "a 90-minute series of tableaux vivants, [a work] that explodes with disjointed exuberance," as one critic put it.

But the house is not just a shell, it is also a shelter, "a home, a place for people to cocoon. A home is the last refuge of privacy," Maheu adds.

Maheu has his own refuge, a house in the country about one-and-a-half hours' drive from his native Montreal "where I become a farmer," he says, and again that rich chuckle floats down the phone. "I prune. I plant trees, work in the garden, breathe, think differ-



Canadian choreographer Gilles Maheu is 'powerfully moved' by the plight of young people.

ently and try to connect back with the earth and with nature."

He lives in Montreal with his wife Isabelle and their four cats. He comes, he says, "from a French-Canadian family. My father was a taxi driver and an alcoholic. My mother was a housewife. I replay my childhood in my work, and also invent a better childhood than I had. Now I feel very privileged and lucky to be doing what I do, and I'm happy in my life."

He studied theater and mime in Europe during the heady '70s when the ferment of what was new and exciting in theater was bubbling madly.

He worked with giants like Etienne Ducroux in France and Eugenio Barba in Denmark, and what he learned from them became the foundations of Maheu's intensely physical theater language in which movement takes precedent over text, and improvisation over interpretation.

He founded his first company when he came home in 1975, a street theater called Les Enfants du Paradis. It evolved into Carbone 14, named for the radioactive element "that helps us understand the history of humankind," he has said in an interview.

Maheu has created 14 shows with the company, from *Pain Blanc*, a parody of consumer society, in 1981, to *Winter*, which is "as much about the [nationalist] schizophrenia of the Quebecois as it is about the season as a metaphor for my country where the winters are so hard."

He develops his shows together "in a room with the dancers, and the ideas frequently take on a life of their own and take me somewhere unexpected."

"I think that as I get older, my theatrical language is becoming more precise, and pure. I try to be simpler."

He still considers himself a theater artist, "part of this huge multidisciplinary family. I have a scenic language. I am a scenic writer."

His shows are always changing, he says, even after the first night, and the *Dead Souls* that is coming is different from last year. "I always rework my shows," he says.

This is Carbone 14's first festival appearance but its second visit here. Maheu brought *The Rail* to a Tel Aviv hangar in the mid-'80s, "and we're really looking forward to coming back. We have good memories of Israel."

Festival in Ra'anana

Ra'anana has its own festival too. These days, when most music lovers travel to Jerusalem for the far from exciting Israel Festival and to Abu Gosh for the exhilarating choral music festival, Ra'anana has announced Camerana, a festival of chamber music starting this Thursday and running for a week.

The festivities open with the Prague Saxophone Quartet and continue with a Schubert evening, a concert by the Israel Camera Jerusalem and conclude with a performance by the Young Jerusalem String Quartet playing Beethoven, Ravel and Dvorak. The artistic director of this new festival is pianist/lecturer Tomer Lev.

REVIEWS

in brief

Theater

Although public attitudes towards the gay community and AIDS have changed since *Angels in America* first appeared, the play still has tremendous clout. Not only that, the present Haifa Municipal Theater version is an incomparably greater achievement than the Cameri production of four years ago.

In the earlier one, Tony Kushner's savage and surreal metaphor for the combined role of sex, politics, and power in global disaster was coarsely trivialized, his characters weakly burlesqued. This time round, however, Roni Pinkovitch, with his concentrated, incisive direction and stark *mise en scene*, gives the work a new lease of life.

His treatment releases what Lorca called "la oscura raiz del grito" - "the dark root of the scream" that lurks below the surface of this grim work. With Moshe Becker and Gil Frank in the respective roles of the dying homosexual WASP, Fryer, and his Jewish lover, Louis, the theme is realized with a grave intensity, controlled compassion and artistic delicacy. In contrast, macabre, agonized but engaging sparks of humor and Jean Bogaerts' eye-catching costumes offer intermittent relief.

Strong in smaller parts are Yossi Polak with his not over-subtle but corrupt and corrupting Roy Cohn, Lior Veitai as both the rabbi and the doctor, and Maya Maoz as the sex-starved Mormon wife, Harper.

Naomi Douai

Cabaret



Dudu Fisher and Hannah Laszlo

The Yiddishshpil production of *Roszkowicz mit Mandlen* ("Raisins and Almonds") is a four-member cabaret starring Hannah Laszlo, Dudu Fisher, Ya'acov Bodo and Monica. It's fast-paced, well synchronized and nostalgic. And it's humorously updated in terms of political innuendo.

Bodo had a delightfully audacious skit about English being a bastardized form of Yiddish. Examples include drink, (*trink*), bread (*broit*), butter (*puter*). Monica is another great talent with a fine voice and presentation. Laszlo converted her famous Clara, the cleaning woman character, into a hilarious Yiddish speaker, and she also proved her versatility in a variety of other skits. And Fisher was in his element singing *A Chazandl of Shabbes* which allowed him to demonstrate the full range of his remarkable vocal abilities.

Greer Fay Cashman

Concert

Concerti featured Sinfonietta principle players as soloists. Clarinetist Yevgeny Yehudin's warm, artistic rendition of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto was technically impeccable, communicative and splendid by any standard. Contra bassist David Hanani overcame technical obstacles and gave a virtuoso presentation of Dittersdorf's Concerto in E Major. Excellent too was the full bodied tone and delicate phrasing of Roman Kott in Mozart's Horn Concerto in E Flat, K 417.

Debuting young conductor Ronen Borshovsky drew cultured tone and articulate intonation from the sinfonietta in Corelli's Concerti Gross (op.6, no.8) and Domenico Scarlatti (no.2 in C). The performance played to a packed hall at the Beersheba Conservatory, May 31.

Max Stern

Opera

The German Opera Berlin's guest performance of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* was intended to surprise. And the performance, directed by Gunter Kramer with stage design by Andreas Reinhardt, in the New Israeli Opera, did so incessantly. This was a fast-paced, dynamic, inventive, colorful, effect-studded production. It was tastefully designed and was enjoyably entertaining, especially if one did not expect it to always make sense. The singers were the performance's weaker link, except for Peter Edelmann's Papageno. His rich, resonating baritone, perfectly endearing singing and acting, and subtly humorous, tongue-in-cheek antics were a joy to behold.

This is more than can be said about his colleagues. Rainier Trost displayed a pleasant, soft lyric tenor, though not altogether credible as a lover-at-first-sight. Bass Reinhard Hagen was an authoritative yet not quite awe-inspiring Sarastro, struggling bravely with his difficulties in reaching the required low notes. Susanne Elmarsk's soprano, as Queen of the Night, was bright and penetrating, but occasionally somewhat squeaky. Soprano Fionnuala McCarthy, unlike the "meek and virtuous" Famina of the text, radiated an overdose of assertiveness. The chorus and the orchestra of the Deutsche Opera Berlin sounded well-balanced and maintained a fairly brisk tempo under Lawrence Foster's direction.

Ury Eppstein

Ballet

A lot of young talent got a chance to show off at the seventh Mia Arbatova Ballet Competition. On average, the level was higher than in previous competitions.

Out of 10 contestants who made it to the final stage, only two were born in Israel, the rest are immigrants from Russia and Georgia. Helena Dzebashvili, a high school pupil from Ironi Alef won the first prize (6000 IS), Lena Dvoskin, a student of Liora Bing Hudeker, who was prepared for the competition by Galina Shakriani, won second prize (4000 IS). Third prize (3000 IS) went to Ella Nagli, a student of Adam and Ilana Pasternak, who won the fourth prize (2000 IS).

Alexander Voltitzky, the only boy at the '97 competition, received a special mention but the audience favorite was Anna Zovotova, the vivacious imp who has got loads of stage personality that should take her far.

Ora Brafman

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK WEEK CHARTS		ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE COLLECTION
#2	4	RITA	SPICE
#3	11	SPICE GIRLS	WITHOUT YOU
#4	3	EYAL GOLAN	PARTY TIME 3
#5	8	VIA	SHALVA
#6	9	AVI PERETZ	AHINOAM NINI '97
#7	22	SHILOMO ARTZI	TWO
#8	6	VIA	VOLUME TWELVE
#9	7	MICHAEL JACKSON	BLOOD ON THE...
#10	17	OST	THE SAINT
#11	NEW!	1	ULTRA
#12	15	2	GOSPEL OAK
#13	NEW!	1	BEST OF...
#14	RE	1	COMING UP
#15	14	3	

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

The power of fire

Imagine a huge empty space. Well, not totally empty, there are lots of strange-looking constructions around. And suddenly each begins to have a life almost of its own. Welcome to the world of the 22k Group, Jerusalemites combining visual sculpting and industrial images as a theatrical presentation. Now they present *Energy*, a multimedia 50-minute show without any words but with lots of powerful images, energies and an impressive score by Haim Permut. It is an electrifying celebration of fire, water and sand, a larger-than-life audio visual experience which leaves you agape, yet somewhat cold.

Michael Ajzenstadt

BUSINESS

in brief

Polished diamond exports rise 14.5%

Polished-diamond exports rose 14.5 percent last month to \$405 million from \$354m. in May last year. Exports of polished diamonds for the January-May period totalled \$1.32b., an 8% increase over the same period last year. Exports of unpolished diamonds rose 42% last month to \$73m. from \$51m. in May last year.

For the January-May period, exports of raw diamonds rose to \$430m. from \$288m. In total, exports of polished and unpolished diamonds rose 14% in May to \$478m. In the January-May period, 47% of the exports were to the US, 19% were to Hong Kong, 12% to Belgium and 14% to Japan. *Jennifer Friedlin*

IAl division, Sonovision sign cooperation deal

Israel Aircraft Industries' MHT division has signed a cooperation agreement with the French company Sonovision-ITEP to promote projects in the field of information packaging, publication and training in Europe.

The two companies, which did not specify the sums of money at stake, said they plan to exploit their technical abilities, particularly the ITEK (integrated electronic technical knowledge base) system that was developed by IAI, which consolidates interactive and electronic data, integrated logistics management and computer-guided training.

The goal is to use the computer to replace the traditional books used in any training course.

MHT Technical Publications and Training division is one of the leading companies in training and technical documentation and supplies services to numerous customers in Israel and abroad, including factories in four divisions of IAI.

The Paris-based Sonovision is a leading French contractor in its field in France, employs 1,100 workers and has sales of more than \$100 million. *Steve Rodan*

Symposium to discuss US securities litigation

Accounting allies Price Waterhouse and Somekh Chaikin will next week host in Tel Aviv lawyers from leading American firms for a two-day symposium on US securities litigation and intellectual property laws. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Turkey to activate trade pact 'soon'

Turkey will soon begin implementing the free-trade agreement it signed with Israel, Turkish Ambassador Barlas Ozener said. Although bureaucratic delays meant Turkey could not adhere to the original May 1 implementation date, Ozener said the deal is currently circulating among the 40 ministers who have to sign it, and he hopes free trade will begin "within the next few days."

Meanwhile, until the agreement's final passage, both sides are requiring importers to sign bank guarantees in case the deal does not get passed. The agreement is designed to increase trade between the two countries. Bilateral trade totalled \$500m. in 1995. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Property-tax payments plunge 29% so far in '97

Overall internal revenues increase 1.3% in same period

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Treasury's returns from property taxes during the first five months of the year fell 29 percent, reflecting the slowdown in the real-estate market, according to Finance Ministry data released yesterday.

Otherwise, even with the decline in property tax returns, the government's internal revenues

between January and May from overall taxation and various service charges went up 1.3 percent in real terms from the same period last year.

In all, internal revenue during the first five months went up to NIS 44.5 billion from NIS 38.7b. Though the inflation-adjusted difference between these two figures is 4.6%, it shrinks to 1.3% after adjustment to various taxation

changes.

The bulk of the government's income came from the Property and Income Tax Department, which brought the Treasury a total of NIS 24.7b., an 8% real-term increase.

However, that part of the increase was attributed exclusively to income taxes, while property-tax returns plunged due to the sharp decline in the amount of real-estate

deals signed so far this year.

Duties and value-added tax returns generated the government an income of NIS 18.7b., a figure which after inflation adjustments is the same as last year.

Import taxes, meanwhile, registered a 10% decrease, reflecting sharp declines in the imports of such tax-intensive products as cars (6%), television sets (40%), and VCR systems (5%).

Federal Express launches own Israel-US route

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Federal Express (FedEx), the world's largest express transport company, began regular flights between the US and Tel Aviv yesterday with its own Boeing 727 all-cargo aircraft, which is to fly to and from Israel four times a week.

David Bronczek, the company's senior vice president for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, noted that the decision to upgrade service to Israel came as a result of the international business community's interest in the growing economy here.

The new service, he said, would make it possible for Israeli exporters to have their products in major European market centers overnight and to reach the US only one full business day after they were sent.

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy said the FedEx flights strengthened Israel's connection with the US. He described the carrier as a very important one, especially in its ability to provide door-to-door service for small packages.

Bronczek noted that with a 25-ton lift capacity, the Tel Aviv flights would make FedEx the first company in the express industry to remove virtually any weight and size restrictions for express shipments.

He pointed out that the flights would also have a special area for dangerous substances, which are restricted on most commercial passenger airlines.

Bronczek said a third of Israel's \$20.5 billion in exports consists of high-tech and computer products, chemicals and textiles.

"Israel is fast becoming the Silicon Valley of the Eastern Hemisphere," he said.

FedEx, which was established 24 years ago, reported revenues of \$10.3b. for its fiscal year.

The company has its major hub in Memphis, Tennessee, with subsidiary hubs in London, Frankfurt and Paris. It has a worldwide aircraft fleet of 583 planes.

Airline sources said yesterday that the new FedEx service would provide a challenge for El Al, its subsidiary Cal, and the commercial airlines serving Israel.

Lufthansa spokesman Yitzhak Zaroni said that cargo revenues normally provide a quarter to a third of airline income.

Last year El Al and Cal carried 209,933 tons of cargo, or 79 percent of the cargo from Israel.

Of the foreign airlines, Lufthansa was first with 7,165 tons, or 2.7%, followed by Swissair with 6,069 tons (2.3%) and British Airways with 4,972 tons (1.9%).



Trading in Halifax shares begin

Halifax chairman Jon Foulds (left) and chief executive Mike Blackburn pose for photographers outside the London Stock Exchange yesterday, as trading in the newly floated company's shares began. *(Reuters)*

COMPANY RESULTS

Israel Corporation slips into the red

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Israel Corporation Ltd. slipped into the red in the first quarter with losses of NIS 35.3 million after posting a profit of NIS 40.5m. in the same period last year, the company reported earlier this week.

Revenues fell 20 percent to NIS 782m.

The holding company attributed the slide to poor performances by Israel Chemicals Ltd., Zim Israel Navigation Co., Oil Refineries Ltd. and Tower Semiconductor Ltd.

Zim's loss was NIS 43m. and Oil Refineries had NIS 90.6m. in losses.

Tower Semiconductor's profits fell from NIS 16.9m. to NIS 14.8m., while Israel Chemicals' profits jumped 42% to NIS 71.6m.

The Israel Corp. is one of the nation's major investment companies, with holdings in over 80 companies.

Osem Investment Ltd., Israel's largest food manufacturer, reported a 19% drop in first-quarter net income to NIS 17.8m. from NIS 21.9m. in the same period last year.

Revenue was up to NIS 299.8m. from NIS 290.9m.

During the quarter, the company's local sales increased 2.5%, while overseas sales dropped 1.7%.

The company said in a statement that the losses were due to a decrease in ice cream sales, which were affected by "seasonal influences and reorganization of the distribution and production system."

Last year, Nestle, the world's biggest food manufacturer,

increased its stake in Osem to almost 40%.

Osem's product range exceeds 1,000 items.

Africa Israel's first-quarter net profits fell to NIS 14m. from NIS 20.6m. in the same period last year.

Revenues for the quarter dropped to NIS 240m. from NIS 262m.

The company said the results do not reflect its performance, since Africa Israel's insurance arm, Migdal, was sold last year and, therefore, its profits are no longer included in Africa Israel's quarterly results.

Italian insurance giant Generali now owns Migdal.

Africa Israel has sold 740 apartment since the start of the year. The company is currently in the process of building 2,223 units, 1,108 of which have been sold.

Management announced that earnings were boosted by an increase in profits from capital market activities. Profits from financing operations before provisions for doubtful debts rose to NIS 10.2m. from NIS 7.2m.

Operating income dropped by 27% due to a capital market loss of NIS 1.4m.

The bank's balance totalled NIS 2.6b. at the end of the first quarter, the same as during the first quarter last year. In the 1996 fourth quarter, the balance was NIS 2.8b.

Agent for Israel Wanted

Talcoon Co. Ltd., an international Cypriot firm, manufacturers of construction chemicals, seeks an agent to stock and distribute their products.

Joint-Venture may also be considered with the possibility of local manufacturing in the future.

A Company representative will participate with the Cypriot delegation on June 9, at the Israel Export Institute.

For meetings please contact: Talcoon Co. Ltd.
Fax: 00357-2-487716 before June 4,
or Mr. Yair Ofek at The Israel Export Institute

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B. The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided some required certificate, permit, license, or any other document, to make good this omission, within a period of time to be fixed by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of the cost of the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address (Tel. 04-9615484). Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused at the offices of the Market Research and Tenders Dept., at the above address, or at the Sales Unit, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Ashdod Building, Entrance B, 1st floor, Tel. 03-565-4641/79, Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

Bids should be placed in sealed envelopes and should be put in Tenders Box No. 1 in the Pal-Yam Building, Haifa, at the above address, by the above stated time.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
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Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.100
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (30.5.97)

CURRENCY AND TRANSFERS	BUY		SELL		Rep. Rate**
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Currency basket	3.6850	3.7272	—	—	3.6850
U.S. dollar	3.3783	3.4328	3.32	3.49	3.4050
German mark	1.9650	1.9967	1.93	2.03	1.9794
Pound sterling	5.5244	5.6156	5.42	5.70	5.5752
French franc	0.5809	0.5916	0.57	0.60	0.5888
Japanese yen (100)	2.8023	2.9492	2.85	3.00	2.9259
Dutch florin	1.7483	1.7745	1.71	1.80	1.7588
Swiss franc	2.3718	2.4288	2.33	2.45	2.3928
Swedish krona	0.4348	0.4419	0.42	0.45	0.4388
Norwegian krona	0.4730	0.4807	0.46	0.49	0.4772
Denish krona	0.5158	0.5242	0.50	0.54	0.5198
Finnish mark	0.2517	0.2623	0.24	0.28	0.2597
Canadian dollar	2.4519	2.4939	2.42	2.53	2.4824
Australian dollar	2.5829	2.6043	2.51	2.65	2.5889
S. African rand	0.7853	0.7875	0.68	0.77	0.7817
Belgian franc (10)	0.9519	0.9873	0.93	0.99	0.9639
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7514	2.8385	2.74	2.88	2.8117
Italian lira (1000)	1.9819	2.0138	1.94	2.05	2.0079
Jordanian dinar	4.7848	4.8417	4.70	5.02	4.8217
Egyptian pound	0.9500	1.0500	0.96	1.05	1.0250
ECU	3.8274	3.8992	3.82	4.05	3.8524
Irish punt	5.0827	5.1749	5.00	5.25	5.1287
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3200	2.3575	2.28	2.40	2.3428

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

LAST CHANGE

Table with columns for company names and price changes under the AMEX section.

NASDAQ

Table with columns for company names and price changes under the NASDAQ section.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

LAST CHANGE

Table listing the top 100 TASE issues with their respective price changes.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

LAST CHANGE

Table listing international shares with their respective price changes.

NEW YORK

LAST CHANGE

Table listing New York market data with their respective price changes.

NYSE STOCKS

Unchanged Advances

Table listing NYSE stocks with their respective price changes.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

LAST CHANGE

Table listing other market indexes with their respective price changes.

US COMMODITIES

LAST CHANGE

Table listing US commodities with their respective price changes.

SPOT MARKET METALS

LAST CHANGE

Table listing spot market metals with their respective price changes.

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NEW YORK MARKET FUTURES

LAST CHANGE

Table listing New York market futures with their respective price changes.

LONDON

LAST CHANGE

Table listing London market data with their respective price changes.

PARIS

LAST CHANGE

Table listing Paris market data with their respective price changes.

FRANKFURT

LAST CHANGE

Table listing Frankfurt market data with their respective price changes.

Report of budget surplus boosts shares

Mishtanim 280.53 ▲ 0.99% Maof 288.10 ▲ 0.71%

By JESSICA STEINBERG

Stock indexes set records yesterday after the Finance Ministry announced the government ran a surplus in May.

The Finance Ministry announced a budget surplus of NIS 87 million in May. The deficit so far in 1997 is NIS 1.16 billion, compared with a planned deficit for the year of NIS 7.44b., or 2.8 percent of gross domestic product.

The Maof Index of 25 most-traded issues rose 0.71% to 288.1 and the Mishtanim Index of 100 issues went up 0.99% to 280.53.

The Finance Ministry announced a budget surplus of NIS 87 million in May. The deficit so far in 1997 is NIS 1.16 billion, compared with a planned deficit for the year of NIS 7.44b., or 2.8 percent of gross domestic product.

Bank Leumi, the country's second-largest bank, on Sunday reported better-than-expected earnings. It rose 0.5% to NIS 5.37. The bank said net income increased 457% on the sale of non-banking units.

Its results followed the government's sale of 14% of the bank last Tuesday. The sale was oversubscribed by 2.8 times, with tenders amounting to NIS 1.8b.

Bank Hapoalim, the country's largest bank, rose 1% to 7.89. And Elite Industries Ltd. went up 6.5% to 81.35.

"Here comes enthusiasm," said Doron Tsur, head of research at Sahar Securities & Investments Ltd., a Tel-Aviv based firm. He said investors were happy with the budget surplus, the government's plans for selling state assets and corporate earnings reports.

"It's probably not going to last the whole year, but people want to enjoy it while it lasts." Among the losers were Discount Investments Ltd., Osem Investments Ltd., and holding company Israel Corp.

Israel Corp. fell 2.5% to 213.99. The holding company said it slumped to a first-quarter loss as its shipping and oil refining subsidiaries posted deficits. (Bloomberg)

Paris stocks end with gains despite Left win

LONDON (Reuters) - Paris stocks ended with healthy gains after a day of roller-coaster trading, with investors trying to second-guess the impact of the new Socialist-led government on business.

In currencies, the dollar was up two pence against the mark in late dealings as the shock left-victory in the French parliamentary elections sent players carrying into safe-haven currencies.

Elsewhere in Europe, Frankfurt stocks closed up nearly two percent with the export sector boosted by the stronger dollar, but London shares finished well down, unsettled by fresh worries over interest rates.

But it was the French markets that held most attention. The Paris bourse swung from minus 3% to plus 2% as investors initially took flight at the Left's victory, then decided to give them the benefit of the doubt.

The blue-chip CAC-40 index plummeted 85.19 points to 2,498.75 within minutes of the opening, as markets digested a "worst case scenario" for French markets in which the Socialist-led left would need the Communists to form a government.

But the market recovered its nerve and was up to 2,645.86 by mid-afternoon in heavy trading. Some of the gains were later eroded, but the index was still up a respectable 0.68% at the close.

Sentiment changed as investors came round to the view that the incoming Socialists would not adopt market-unfriendly policies. In Frankfurt, bourse floor trade finished with gains of 1.6%, shaking off worries about the future of Europe's currency union and a row between the German government and the Bundesbank about revaluating assets.

In contrast, London ended the day down 1.27%, one of the biggest one-day declines for two months as bank stocks tumbled and fears grew of a possible rise in British interest rates later this week.

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow slips 41 points

NEW YORK (AP) - Smaller-company stocks rose to record levels for the seventh straight session, but blue-chip shares fell yesterday as some new data contradicted recent signs that inflationary pressures may be easing.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 41.64 points to close at 7,289.40, weighed down by Procter and Gamble, which fell sharply after a downgrade by Smith Barney.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 820.05 per line, including VAT, per month.

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EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdor, 670-6500; Baisam, Saleh e-Din, 627-2915; Shufar, Shufar, Shufar, 581-0108; Dar Al-Dawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.

Tel Aviv: Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040; Superpharm Lev Dizengoff, 60 Dizengoff, 628-0975. Tel 1 s.m. Wednesday: Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040. Tel midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einsteim, 641-3730; London: Ministry Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115.

Rafanama, Kfar Sava: Kinneret, 119 Weizmann, Kfar Sava, 767-3228. Netanya: Clal Pharm, 60 Binyamin, 833-5091. Haifa: Habankim, 5 Habankim, 851-3005.

Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Krayot Black, 876-7818. Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Masik (bet Sdot Ramat Herzliya), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0488. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Baur Hofim (Internal, obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics); Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery); Netanya: Laniado.

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P A C M E D INVESTMENTS

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MARKETS

17.936 3.000 1.925 3.240

BANKNOTES

Buy Sell

3.74 2.84 2.80 2.84 2.80 2.84

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17.936 3.000 1.925 3.240

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Buy Sell

3.74 2.84 2.80 2.84 2.80 2.84

MARKETS

17.936 3.000 1.925 3.240

Vertical text on the left margin: Tuesday June 3, 1997, Federal Express, The Jerusalem Post, every Monday.

SPORTS

in brief

England call up Clark for injured Butt

LONDON (Reuters) - Midfielder Lee Clark was drafted into the England squad for the four-nation Tournoi de France yesterday...

England coach Glenn Hoddle named Clark to replace Manchester United's Nicky Butt who has a hamstring injury.

Sunderland, relegated from the English premier league last month, announced earlier on Monday that they had signed Clark for £2.5 million (\$4.1 million).

Paul Gascoigne and David Beckham were flying to France with the England party despite picking up injuries in Saturday's 2-0 win in Poland in a World Cup qualifier.

Iran beat Maldives 17-0 in World Cup qualifier

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Iran beat Maldives by a record score of 17-0 (halftime 6-0) in a World Cup soccer Asian zone group 2 qualifying match yesterday.

The previous highest World Cup score was 13-0 when New Zealand beat Fiji in 1981.

Rodder becomes fourth Lions captain

PRETORIA (Reuters) - Tim Rodder became the fourth captain in as many matches when the British Lions named their side to meet Mpumalanga (formerly South Eastern Transvaal) in Witbank tomorrow.

England number eight Rodder, who follows prop Jason Leonard, flanker Rob Wainwright and tour skipper Martin Johnson, leads the team three years after he was sent off playing for England in South Africa.

Weizman wishes Israel good luck ahead of Russia

By OPH LEWIS

President Ezer Weizman yesterday received the national soccer squad ahead of their crucial World Cup qualifying match with Russia in Moscow next Sunday.

The players presented the president with a ball signed by the team and wished him a happy birthday, and said they hoped that they could present him with a much important present - a win against the Russians next week.

The squads then returned for training at Ramat Gan where the hot weather forced a curtailment of the session. Defender Avishai

Hill says oversteer may have killed Senna

IMOLA (Reuters) - Formula One world champion Damon Hill told a court yesterday that oversteer might have caused the crash that killed Brazilian Ayrton Senna at the San Marino Grand Prix in 1994.

The Briton, who was No. 2 driver to Senna in the Williams racing team at the time of the accident, dismissed prosecution charges that the accident was caused when the three-times world champion's steering column snapped.

Commenting on video footage taken from a camera on Senna's car seconds before the accident at Imola's Tamborello bend, Hill told the court "My own feeling is that the car looks to be oversteering."

As the court watched the same film on a hi-tech computer screen, Hill explained: "There are two distinct times where the car looks to be oversteering and that the steering wheel is exactly the way that I would expect to see to correct oversteer."

Hill was testifying as a prosecution witness at the manslaughter trial of former team chief Frank Williams and five other defendants at Imola, near the track where Senna's car crashed into a wall at 200 kph on May 1, 1994.

Other defendants from the Williams team are technical director Patrick Head and designer Adrian Newey, none of the accused was in court.

Hill, now with the Arrows Yamaha team, drove himself to the makeshift courthouse - in a converted theater - before sitting impassively throughout his three-and-a-half hour session.

Asked whether the apparent oversteer in the Brazilian's car was due to low tyre pressure or the state of the Imola track, Hill replied: "You cannot separate the two."

"My idea looking at it is that the car seems to oversteer when it crosses the place on the circuit where there are some marks."

Hill's comments appeared to support the Williams defence lawyer Oreste Dominioni's claims in March that Senna's death may have been due to "anomalies in the asphalt" of the track.

Imola's circuit manager Giorgio Poggi, race director Roland Bruynseraede and track director Federico Bendinelli are also on trial, charged with allowing the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix to take place on a dangerous track.

Arazi leads rout of top Paris men

PARIS (Reuters) - Morocco's Hicham Arazi completed the biggest rout of seeded players in modern grand slam history yesterday as Marcelo Rios of Chile followed the big-name procession out of this year's French Open.

Arazi, ranked 55th in the world, beat the mercurial seventh seed 6-2, 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 to round off an unprecedented sequence of men's results which has left just two seeds in the quarter-final draw, the fewest at any major tournament in the Open era.

Joining Arazi in the last eight are such household names as Belgium's Filip Dewulf, Sweden's Magnus Norman, Spain's Galo Blanco and Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten, none of whom have knocked too loudly on the door of tennis's elite in the past.

Australian Pat Rafter also reached his first grand slam quarter-final after a 6-2, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 success over compatriot Mark Woodforde, having ignored the event's first rain delay which interrupted him at 3-1 in the final set.

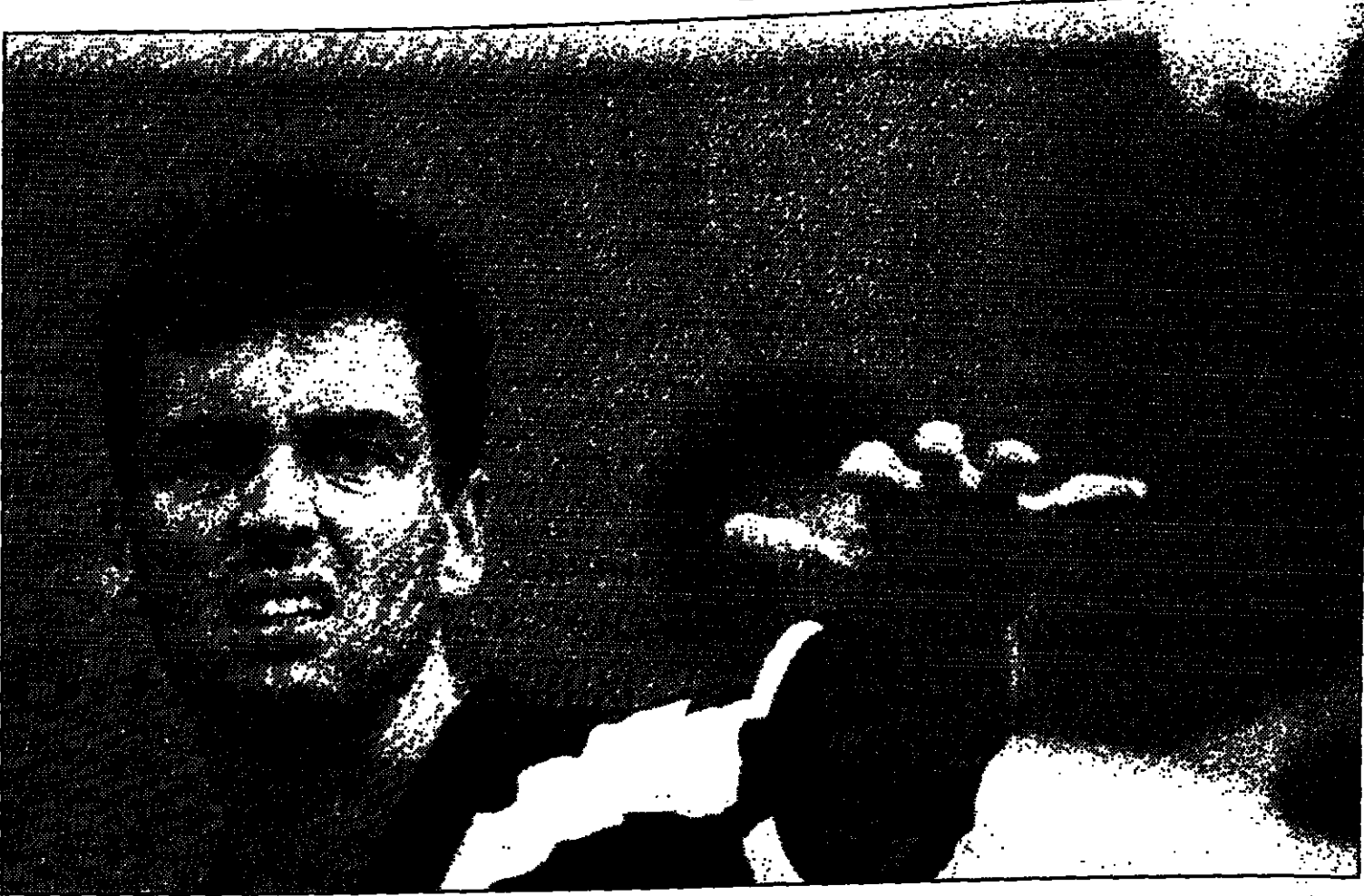
With defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Spain's Sergi Bruguera, a tense 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 winner over world No. 2 Michael Chang, still in contention it may be wise for the new kids on the block to enjoy their fame while they can.

But the way the French-based Arazi, who has lived near Paris since he was a baby, completed his starting win over fellow left-hander Rios suggests the final days at Roland Garros are unlikely to be any more predictable than the first eight.

Despite suffering from toothache, Arazi romped away with the first two sets, demonstrating that his defeat of Thomas Muster in Hamburg last month was no fluke.

Rios was briefly allowed back into the match from a break down in the third, but the 23-year-old Arazi completed the job in some some style 7-4 in the fourth set tie-break.

"Everything I tried went in," said Arazi, who now meets the 1993 and 1994 champion Bruguera. "It has given me a lot of confidence. Against top 10 players I won't be afraid any



THE LOOK OF CONCENTRATION - Spain's Sergi Bruguera keeps his eye well-focused on the ball during his match with No. 2 seed Michael Chang of the US yesterday. Bruguera won the match in four sets.

more." Even the beaten Rios was impressed. "If he plays the first two sets like he played against me, he will kill Bruguera," predicted the Chilean.

In a novel twist to most players' pre-match routines, Arazi listens to poetry read by his coach Alberto Castellani, but his result and those of his fellow upstarts are the stuff of sporting fairy tales are made of.

The colorful Kuerten, the first Brazilian for 29 years to reach the French last eight, was ecstatic after a 5-7, 6-1, 6-2, 1-6, 7-5 win over Andrei Medvedev spread over two days because of bad light.

"It's the best week in my life," smiled the 20-year-old, ranked 66th in the world. "Now I'm in the quarter-finals, anything can happen."

Kuerten, unmistakable in his garish blue and yellow gear, now encounters defending champion Kafelnikov, hoping to add the Russian to a growing list of victims which already includes Muster, the 1995 champion.

Blanco, another 20-year-old ranked even lower at 111th on the computer, could yet reach the semi-finals without meeting a single seed. He caught the mood by dismissing

the Czech Petr Korda, an opponent ranked 81 places above him, and can hardly believe his luck after going through a quarter which contained Goran Ivanisevic, Richard Krajicek, Albert Costa and Wayne Ferreira.

"It's a dream," he admitted. "I can't believe what's happening to me." He meets Rafter in the last eight.

Bruguera's success over 1989 champion Chang was his most satisfying result in Paris since his last title in 1994 and, at 26, he is now the oldest player left in the draw.

He started 1997 81st on the ATP computer after suffering from a hip

injury last year, but Chang discovered to his cost that the Spaniard tends to raise his game the minute he sets foot on the red Parisian clay.

"For me it's always very important to play well here but this is something very special today," Bruguera said after gaining revenge over Chang for his defeat in the 1995 semifinal on the same court.

"When you have been injured it's so difficult to come back, which is why this win means even more. It gives me confidence. I beat the No. 2 in the world and on any surface that's an accomplishment."

Berkovic signs for West Ham

By MARK FIVLIN

LONDON - Eyal Berkovic yesterday completed the signing of a five-year contract with English Premier League side West Ham for £1.75 million.

The fee is an all-time record for an Israeli soccer player.

The mercurial Israeli international midfielder had been wavering between signing for the east London club and north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur, who at the last minute had said they were interested in the player.

However, the Israeli decided to plump for the initial front-runners and an unusually long-term contract at Upton Park.

West Ham were in fine shopping mood yesterday and also signed Andy Timp from First Division Queens Park Rangers for £1.2 million.

Immediately after closing the deal, Berkovic headed for Heathrow Airport to board a flight back to Israel where he rejoins the national squad's training camp before leaving for Moscow tomorrow.

Israel play Russia in a vital World Cup qualifier on Sunday.

Derbyshire snatch victory over Australia

DERBY (Reuters) - Shane Warne warmed up for the first Test against England with a seven-wicket performance yesterday but could not keep Derbyshire from a dramatic one-wicket victory over the Australians.

The inspirational leg-spinner grabbed seven for 103 as Derbyshire, chasing a formidable 371 after the tourists declared on 265 for four, claimed victory with three balls to spare.

During the last over from Brendon Julian, last man Kevin Dean pushed through mid-wicket for two off the third ball after they had been gifted three off the previous delivery by a wayward throw from Greg Blewett.

Warne's performance, which earned him the man-of-the-match prize just three days before the first Test at Edgbaston, looked to have secured victory for the tourists when he trapped Andrew Harris leg before in the penultimate over.

Yet Derbyshire won it with their highest-ever score in a fourth innings and sealed their first-ever triumph over an official Australian tour side.

Derbyshire's victory may have also helped England's Test hopes as Jason Gillespie

sustained a bruised left foot while Greg Blewett is still nursing a long-standing knee injury.

"The number of small injuries we have is a bigger worry than seeing a side beat us," claimed captain Mark Taylor.

"I'm not overly concerned about the result because we all got a decent bat in this match. "It would have been nice to win but one wicket is not going to make a big difference. My main concern is having 11 guys fit for the Test match and I don't think I'm going to have that."

Earlier, Taylor received a vote of confidence from coach Geoff Marsh yesterday just three days before the first Test against England at Edgbaston.

Taylor, who has not scored a Test half-century since 1995, was dismissed for 63 early in the day in his final innings before the Test.

"We'll sit down after this game with the three selectors and pick the best side to win the Test match and I'm sure he'll be there," Taylor said.

Former Australian captains Ian and Greg Chappell have both called for Taylor's dismissal in favour of vice-captain Steve Waugh.

Marsh, Taylor and Waugh are the tour selectors.

Hayden completes third ton in three days

LONDON (Reuters) - Australian sensation Matthew Hayden showed his countrymen what they are missing with his third century in three days for Hampshire against Warwickshire.

But it required the last wicket pair of Derek Kenway and Jim Bovill to hold out for the final few overs and ensure that Warwickshire, for whom Nick Knight's 119 in just 55 balls was the fastest century of the season, were denied their third successive win.

Hayden hit a six and 17 fours in his 119, which followed his first innings of 235 and 118 in the Sunday League game. He led the Hampshire charge at Southampton yesterday but his side slipped after he was caught in the deep off Ashley Giles.

They then lost four wickets for the addition of 12 runs and needed the heroics of Kenway and Bovill, who made 70 and 20 not out respectively, to see them to safety, 61 short of Warwickshire's total.

England spinner Phil Tufnell took four for 64 to help Middlesex defeat Northamptonshire by an innings and 57 runs at Lord's.

Northants were facing a tough day from the moment they resumed at 168 for six, needing a further 147 to make Middlesex bat again.

There was some resistance but Tufnell wrapped up victory when David Follett was stumped for three as Northants were 258 all out from 117.5 overs.

Champions Leicestershire missed an opportunity to return to the top of the table by falling 84 runs short of the 331 victory target set by Lancashire at Grace Road.

Lancashire had declared at 425 for five after starting the final day on 279 for two with both England skipper Mike Atherton (108) and Graham Lloyd (100 not out) making centuries.

But some accurate spin bowling from Gary Keedy, with two for 92 and Gary Yates, three for 66, kept the champions in check.

A valiant 149 from John Morris, his first century of the season and the 43rd of his career, could not save Durham from defeat as Glamorgan collected their second win of the season by an innings and eight runs in Cardiff.

At Ilford, Yorkshire required just eight deliveries to complete a two-wicket triumph over Essex, Test all-rounders Darren Gough striking the winning runs.

Table with 10 columns: Country, W, L, D, etc. showing cricket statistics for various teams.

CLASSIFIEDS section containing various advertisements for real estate, services, and rentals in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

LOCAL SCENE section featuring an article about Marksman Starek hitting the target at long last, along with other local news items.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ISRAEL FESTIVAL

The Josef Nadi dance company returns to the festival with 'The Commentaries of Habakkuk...'



Helen Kaye

Renowned Russian baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky presents a solo recital at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem (9:30)...

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Two of Israel's most invigorating percussionists join forces this evening (6) in a special concert at the Tel Aviv Museum...

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Kate Brody's Hadassah Center Stage Theater presents that delightful 'Little Shop of Horrors'...

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

The riotous Cameri production of Shakespeare's 'A Comedy of Errors' returns to the main stage...

Natan Datner and Osnat Fishman star in the Cameri's production of Shakespeare's 'A Comedy of Errors.'

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

ETV (2) 23 is airing a new Israeli cooking program, 'Tastes,' at 7:00 tonight...

TV

JORDAN TV

- 15:00 Holy Koran
15:05 Fresh programs
16:00 Super Sports
16:30 News flash
16:31 News in Arabic
16:45 Exercise Time
17:00 Good Morning Israel

CHANNEL 1

- 15:30 Motorcycling from Beirut
15:35 Body
16:00 It's Alive - program about animals

HEBREW PROGRAMS

- 18:30 Aproprio
19:00 News
19:30 News flash
19:31 Muppets

CHANNEL 2

- 6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Little Rosie
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

- 11:30 When No One Would Listen (1992) - drama about an abused wife

MIDDLE EAST TV

- 7:00 TV Shop
14:30 700 Club
15:00 The Moomins

CHANNEL 5

- 15:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion

EUROSPORT

- 9:30 Sand Marathon in Morocco
10:00 Indycar World Series

STAR PLUS

- 6:30 Nine to Five
7:00 Yan Can Cook

CHANNEL 8

- 6:00 Open University (rpt)
8:00 World on a Plate

ARIEL

- 8:30 The English Patient
9:30 Blood and Wine

ASHDOD

- 8:30 The English Patient
9:30 Blood and Wine

18:30 One Life to Live

- 18:30 One Life to Live
19:15 The Young and the Restless

PRIME TIME TV

Table with columns for time slots (1-8) and program titles like 'News flash', 'Muppets with Prince', 'Sunset Beach', etc.

12:50 A Healthy Body

- 12:50 A Healthy Body
13:20 Future Quest: Designer Genes (rpt)

19:00 Some Mothers

- 19:00 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em
19:30 Space: Above and Beyond

2:30 Motorcycling

- 2:30 Motorcycling: Asian Road Racing Championship

3:30 English Cricket

- 3:30 English Cricket: Sunday League & Derbyshire vs. Australia

10 HADERA

- 10 HADERA
LEV The English Patient 6:30, 9:30

HERZLIYA

- HERZLIYA
COLONY #602666 Everyone Says I Love You 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

HOD HASHARON

- HOD HASHARON
GIL Absolute Power-Maximum Risk 7:15, 9:45

19:00 News

- 19:00 News
20:00 News

20:30 News

- 20:30 News
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1 Rearranged pretty sash during the dance (10)
6 Hawk coming from valley, ascending (4)
9 Where traffic congestion occurs near Cork (10)

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled-in letters.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1 Pragmatist (7)
8 Sensitive (6)
9 Ancient Assyrian capital (7)

Small crossword puzzle grid with numbers.

SOLUTIONS

- JERUSALEM
G.G. GIL Jerusalem Mail (Mail) = 678448 Beavis and Butt-head-Little Sister

- OR AKOVA
RAV CHEN = 622758 The English Patient 6:15, 9:15

Cairo Geniza fragments on display in Jerusalem

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The Cairo Geniza provides proof that Jews and Arabs can live together in harmony and gives us hope for the future of our region. President Ezer Weizman said as he opened an exhibition of the famed documents at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem yesterday evening.

Some 50 fragments from the cache of documents discovered in 1897 are on loan to the museum, almost all of them from the Cambridge University Library. The exhibit will be open to the public until October.

Among the highlights of the exhibition are hand-written texts dating back to the 11th century. There is a corrected version of a page from Moses Maimonides' *Guide to the Perplexed* and other handwritten texts by Yehuda Halevi and Yosef Karo. The texts are written in Hebrew, Judeo-Arabic, Arabic and Yiddish.

The Geniza was uncovered by two sisters in the Ben-Ezra Synagogue in the Old Cairo suburb of Fustat. The documents were identified by Dr. Solomon Schechter of Cambridge University in 1897. In the main, the documents describe the everyday life of the vibrant medieval Jewish communities in the Mediterranean basin. There are references to bridal dowries and land tracts, and lists of household items. There are also pharmaceutical prescriptions and medical remedies. And there are many texts, some of them illustrated, showing the connections between the three monotheistic faiths.

But the Geniza also contains documents from further afield, including some written in Yiddish. One 10th-century Hebrew document is signed by the Jews of Kiev. It contains numerous Biblical names and may have been related to a community which sprang from the Khazars, scholars say.

The director of the Cambridge University Library, Prof. Stephan Reif, accompanied the exhibition to Jerusalem. The opening of the exhibition coincides with the convention of the International Council of the Friends of the Israel Museum, headed by the Baroness Nadine de Rothschild and museum president Teddy Kollek.



President Ezer Weizman examines a document from the Cairo Geniza at an Israel Museum exhibit that opened yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

Manbar's trial opens today

By RAINE MARCUS

Businessman and international arms dealer Nahum Manbar, who is charged with espionage and trading with a hostile state, goes on trial this morning in Tel Aviv District Court.

A panel of three judges—Amnon Strashnov, Shelley Timen, and Ze'ev Hamer—will conduct the trial behind closed doors.

Manbar, who was arrested in March, is charged with selling arms to Iran between 1990 and 1994, even after he was warned not to by Israeli intelligence agencies.

Manbar, 51, said in a 1992 interview that he had stopped all transactions with Iran of his own volition. But apparently he was put under close surveillance by intelligence agencies, which discovered he was selling materials for the manufacture of chemical weapons, including mustard gas, to Iran via an intermediary.

Manbar is also charged with helping the Iranians set up factories there by training teams to



Nahum Manbar (Israel Sun)

manufacture chemical weapons.

The US barred entry to Manbar and banned his companies there from operating, since they were violating the boycott on arms sales to Iran.

Sources said that Manbar, a former paratrooper officer, operated alone.

Manbar has denied all charges. A letter sent by his wife, Francine, states that the government was aware that her husband was dealing with Iran.

HU team develops new produce coating

By JUDY SIEGEL

A new family of edible coatings for fruits and vegetables, which protect produce on their way from farm to table, has been developed by a Hebrew University team.

Varda Hershko, the chief researcher on the project while doing doctoral work at the HU Agriculture Faculty in Rehovot, yesterday received the university's Kaye Prize for Innovation.

The colorless, tasteless, chemically stable coatings are not only cheap, but they effectively protect fruits and vegetables from physical trauma or spoilage due to evaporation or oxidation. They prevent a juicy fruit or vegetable from losing moisture or a dry item from absorbing moisture.

The university did not release details on the exact composition of the coatings.

For nearly 30 years, apples and citrus have been coated with wax, which has disadvantages. Few advances have been made since then in this field.

Hershko, working under the tutelage of Dr. Amos Nusinovich and in cooperation with Prof.

Haim Rabinovich, focused on studying the physical and chemical properties of the new coating. Using garlic as a model, they looked for ways of making the coating stick better to the produce. They found that the new coatings lengthen the shelf life of garlic while slowing the loss of moisture.

The Japanese market for grapefruit presented a special challenge.

The Japanese prefer green-peel fruit to yellow. But during the long voyage from Israel to Japan, the chlorophyll breaks down and the peel yellows, reducing its value in the market. The HU coatings allow the introduction of a known substance that preserves the green color.

The researchers note that coatings for produce should not be uniform for all fruits and vegetables but be designed according to the character and chemical structure of the peel and other qualities.

The coating was patented by the Yissum research and development corporation and has aroused much interest among local citrus and mushroom growers. It is expected to be a hit abroad as well.

WEATHER

Hefa	17-25
Tiberias	16-31
Afula	13-28
Samarra	14-26
Tel Aviv	17-25
Jerusalem	13-25
Beersheba	15-28
Dimona	22-31
Eilat	21-33

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

	Low	High	Wind	Cloud
Amsterdam	07	45	18	04
Buenos Aires	12	24	19	05
Chicago	11	52	20	06
Frankfurt	06	43	18	04
Helsinki	04	39	16	03
Jakarta	01	34	15	02
London	09	17	17	05
Los Angeles	19	86	26	09
Moscow	14	67	23	07
Mumbai	09	49	16	04
New York	18	61	22	07
Paris	09	38	18	05
Rome	08	36	18	05
Sydney	09	38	18	05
Toronto	12	54	19	06

Winning cards

The winning cards in the Mifal Hapayis Chance draw (146/97) were the seven of spades, seven of hearts, jack of diamonds and eight of clubs. In the second draw (147/97) the winning cards were the nine of spades, jack of hearts, king of diamonds and queen of clubs.

Deserter escapes after family attacks MPs

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The family of a soldier who had been declared a deserter badly beat up three military policemen who had come to their Bat Yam home early yesterday to arrest him.

The three policemen succeeded in handcuffing the soldier, but his razor-wielding brother and other family members attacked the trio so forcefully that the deserter was able to flee, still bound by the handcuffs, the army said.

The military police came early Monday to the home of the deserter, who had been absent without leave for more than six weeks. The brother pulled a razor and slashed at the policemen, wounding them in their backs and necks, the army said.

When the MPs tried to flee their attackers, they found that their vehicle had been seriously damaged. Civilian police were called and the military policemen were eventually treated for their wounds at Wolfson Hospital.

Smoking kills 15 Israelis a day

By JUDY SIEGEL

Fifteen Israelis die on an average day due to smoking, according to the Health Ministry, which will mark World No-Tobacco Day today.

Fully 30 percent of all cancers diagnosed here are related to smoking, either by the person himself or the result of exposing others to smoking.

World No-Tobacco Day was marked abroad on Saturday, but delayed here because of Shabbat.

Smokers aged 30 to 40 are six times more likely than non-smokers to suffer a heart attack at that age, according to statistics collected by cardiologists. According to the latest statistics, 28% of Israelis—32% of men and 25% of women—are smokers. Tobacco kills half of its regular users. Nearly six out of 10 have failed to quit. The main reasons smokers give for their habit are addiction, tension, and nervousness.

Deputy Health Minister Shimon Benizi said that an open phone line on quitting smoking will operate between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at (02) 6222003, (02) 6221993, and (02) 6221994, in conjunction with the Israel Cancer Association.

The ministry will also mark the day by cracking down on violations of the law that restricts smoking in the workplace and prohibits smoking in public places and in non-smoking sections of cafes and restaurants.

Jordanian princess invites top IDF female officers to visit

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Visiting Jordanian Princess Aisha, who set up and commands the woman's corps in the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces, has invited a group of top IDF female officers to Jordan, as a further step in increasing military cooperation between the two countries.

Lt.-Col. Aisha, 30, said the IDF's Women's Corps is the third she has visited and she was impressed. "We had an opportunity during the past two days to meet with women in the IDF and the air force and navy and to really talk with them of their challenges they are dealing with as women in the army," Lt.-Col. Aisha said in a meeting with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. "We have a lot in common and

we plan to continue learning," she added. Aisha said she invited Brig.-Gen. Yisraela Oron, OC Women's Corps, as well as other female officers to visit with the Jordanian army.

The princess later met with Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and dined at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv with Communications Minister Limor Livnat, Labor MK Dalia Itzik and Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal as well as Defense Ministry officials.

This is Princess Aisha's second visit to Israel. She accompanied her father King Hussein during his condolence visit here in March following the murder of seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls by a Jordanian soldier in Naharayim.

Matza rejects bylaws of three funds

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza told heads of the Maccabi, Leumi and Meuhedet health funds yesterday that he would not accept the new constitutions they had written. Kupat Holim Clalit has not yet presented its proposal for a new constitution.

The wording of the three constitutions, Matza said, did not ensure "proper running of the health funds for the benefit of their members."

Matza said this was due, among other things, to the lack of clear delineations of the authority of health fund institutions, the lack of adequate supervision and control, and the existence of potential conflicts of interest among some members of governing bodies.

There is also no certainty, Matza said, of a proper balance between the good of the insurer and its members on the one hand and that of other institutions connected to the health funds. The election process for choosing members' representatives was also lacking, he said.

Proper criteria for choosing the supervisory bodies, directors-general, members of the control committee, members of the appeals committees, the ombudsman, accountants and other health fund officials were not laid down in the constitution, according to Matza.

The minister informed the three health fund directors that they must prepare new proposals.

Ben-Eliahu: We want to train more women pilots

Air force chief says affirmative action policy in place

By LIAT COLLINS

OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu told the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women yesterday he intends extending the trial period for absorbing women pilot cadets into the Israel Air Force from four years to six or seven before drawing conclusions.

"We really want it to succeed," Ben-Eliahu said. "If there are women pilots who can meet the criteria of pilot and combatant,

we will have a larger pool of people to draw on, instead of just men. We will also be happy to have contributed something to the equality of the sexes in Israeli society."

Ben-Eliahu said the air force has operated a policy of affirmative action among women pilot cadets: whereas male cadets are assessed every five flights, assessments for the women take place after 15 flights. He also said the physical tests had been slightly eased for the women.

Ben-Eliahu said he has asked for permission to allow women pilots and doctors to fly across the border on missions.

The committee meeting was chaired by Yael Dayan (Labor), who had invited Ben-Eliahu to give his report as a follow-up discussion on the subject.

"I have no doubt there are women with the relevant abilities to be top pilots and officers," she said. Dayan added that she has the impression the IAF is making an effort to turn out women pilots.

Naomi Chazan (Meretz) said the problem is that the pool of female candidates for the pilots' course "is so small the result is almost negligible."

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The Samuel L. and Perry Haber Chair in Post-Holocaust Studies

"A National Entity in Time of Transition: The Jewish Displaced Persons in Germany 1945-50"

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